

DRAFT Pilot 2: Data Sharing - Local, State, USPS, and Census**Goal**

To create an address data sharing/exchange model that will allow for address data sharing between local governments, state governments, the USPS, and the Census Bureau. It will provide a business process that increases the accuracy and coverage of local government address lists, while streamlining the process of sharing those externally.

Background

The Census Bureau receives address updates from the USPS on a bi-annual basis in the form of the Delivery Sequence File (DSF). These updates are added into the Census Bureau's Master Address File (MAF) where they are used as the address frame for the Decennial Census and many current surveys. Currently the address updates received by the Census Bureau are primarily the result of postal staff recording updates they encounter in the field and then transmitting these updates for inclusion in the USPS DSF file. Severe resource cuts have directly impacted the number of people involved in collecting these updates and as a result the USPS is currently examining other ways to capture address information. One such program is the USPS County Program of the USPS National Customer Support Center (NCSC), located in Memphis, Tennessee. This program, referred to as the County Project, currently works with local, county, and municipal addressing authorities to improve address quality by resolving addresses that differ and reviewing congressional and county code differences. This project has great benefit to locals in that it provides some postal matching and processing for free, and it enables the USPS to efficiently capture address updates from locals. The Census Bureau will benefit via receipt of the bi-annual receipt of the DSF. This pilot will attempt to build on and refine existing data exchanges from the USPS to the Census, the locals and the USPS, and potentially between locals and their state.

Objectives

1. Gain a better understanding of current constraints of sharing address data.
2. Implement a new model to allow for address data sharing between local governments, state governments, the USPS, and the Census Bureau to increase the accuracy and coverage of local government address lists, while streamlining the process of sharing those lists externally.

Suggested Tasks

1. Establish a working group of participants, stakeholders and subject matter experts.
2. Establish partnership agreements with all of the working group participants and the Census Bureau.
3. Evaluate the requirements of all the working group participants and the Census Bureau to ensure that the proposed pilot will meet and satisfy the necessary requirements.
4. Determine:
 - a. roles of project participants.
 - b. what initial sources will be used.
 - c. how will the work be conducted.
 - d. who provides authoritative review.
 - e. who and how will the data be tested.

- f. how to resolve discrepancies.
- g. what standards are to be used within the overall fabric of the pilot.
5. Evaluate current data availability and quality with a focus on address data elements, address data building, address metadata, and data sharing.
6. Evaluate and understand current constraints of sharing address data.
7. Identify and evaluate activities (i.e. NextGen E-911, Broadband Initiative) underway within other groups (NSGIC, NAPSG, USPS, etc.) and ensure coordination with those activities where appropriate.
8. Refine proposed model based on feedback and experience gained from pilot project(s).
9. Seek integration of the model within existing partners and seek adoption of the model by other stakeholders outside the working group.

Additional steps could include but not be limited to:

1. Document partnership agreements to help support leadership efforts.
2. Provide clear business objectives and partnership benefits.
3. Implementation of FGDC address data standards.
4. Documentation of current constraints of sharing data.
5. Development of a mechanism for promoting the data-sharing program once it has been initiated.

Success Criteria

1. Development of an address data sharing/exchange model that enables the USPS and Census to accept updates from local and state partners in a manner in which all parties benefit from the exchange.
2. Improved data accuracy for all working group participants (measure the degree of address improvement by the comparison of model results against non-model users).
3. Cost avoidance and reduction for working group participants in the long term.
4. Development of quality metrics at all levels.
5. Using participants from the working group, conduct a pilot project(s) to build the proposed model to allow for address data sharing between local governments, state governments, the USPS, and the Census Bureau to increase the accuracy and coverage of local government address lists, while streamlining the process of sharing those externally.

Positive Impacts

It is expected that this address data sharing model will have several positive impacts, including but not limited to:

1. Improve the Census Bureau, USPS, state, and local address repositories.
2. Support variable address data formats/address standards.
3. Better understanding of the motives and incentives to share data.

Negative impacts

Possible negative impacts include but are not limited to:

1. Loss of interest due to pressing individual business objectives; other projects have priority.

Constraints

Possible constraints include but are not limited to:

1. Funding.
2. The perception of a loss of jurisdictional control.
3. "Not my Mission" syndrome.
4. Confidentiality of data.
5. Hurdles associated with Title 13.

Participants

TBD

Resources Required

TBD

Administrative Infrastructure

TBD