

## **Charter of the Federal Interagency Committee On The American Community Survey**

### **1. Background**

The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) was launched in 2005 and is the current embodiment of the census long form. Each year, the ACS is asked of a sample of the U.S. population to provide current data about characteristics of the nation's population and housing units at low levels of geography that are needed more often than once every ten years.<sup>1</sup>

The Census Bureau's American Community Survey Office (ACSO) is tasked by the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy Subcommittee on the ACS (ICSP-SACS) with conducting periodic reviews of the justifications for the survey questions, considering any addition, revision, or deletion of questions. These reviews are conducted with Federal stakeholder agencies' input.

### **2. Federal Interagency Committee on the American Community Survey**

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in conjunction with the Census Bureau co-chairs this Federal Interagency Committee on the ACS (the Committee) established by the Interagency Committee on Statistical Policy's Subcommittee on the ACS (ICSP-SACS). The Committee will exist to participate in reviews of the ACS content and tests of new and/or revised content for the ACS. The Committee will make recommendations on any additions, revisions, or deletions of questions on the ACS to the ICSP-SACS in its capacities of advising the Chief Statistician at OMB and the Director of the Census Bureau.

This document details the mission, composition, and operations of the Federal Interagency Committee on the ACS.

### **3. Mission**

The mission of the Committee is to participate in reviews and tests of the ACS content as well as to provide feedback and recommendations about the content of the ACS to the ICSP-SACS, Census Bureau, and OMB. The Committee is expected to develop recommendations for ACS content based on content reviews and testing that will provide the most useful information with the least amount of burden to the public.

It is expected that the Committee will seek to:

- Identify ways to increase accuracy and reliability in ACS estimates;
- Use alternative sources instead of direct inquiries to the extent possible;
- Develop plans for testing and comparing new and alternative questions;
- Coordinate empirical research strategies across Federal agencies; and

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<sup>1</sup> Methodological, technical, and other information about the ACS is available at: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>.

- Make recommendations to ICSP-SACS, Census Bureau, and OMB to improve the ACS.

In conducting its work, the Committee will consider the following issues:

- Respondents' willingness and ability (respondent burden) to respond and respond accurately;
- Possible solutions to challenges associated with producing reliable estimates of small populations;
- The uses of the statistics by Federal agencies; and
- The uses of the data by state and local agencies and non-Federal researchers and other data users.

#### **4. Composition**

Representatives serving on the committee will be invited from agencies that sponsor and use data collected on the ACS. At a minimum, the following departments and specific agencies shall be represented on the Committee:

- Department of Agriculture
  - Food and Nutrition Service
  - Economic Research Service
  - National Agricultural Statistics Service
- Department of Commerce
  - Census Bureau;
  - Bureau of Economic Analysis;
  - National Telecommunications and Information Administration
- Department of Education
  - National Center for Education Statistics
- Department of Energy
  - Energy Information Administration
- Department of Health and Human Services
  - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
  - National Center for Health Statistics
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
  - Office of Policy Development and Research
- Department of the Interior
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Department of Justice
  - Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Department of Labor
  - Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Department of Transportation
  - Bureau of Transportation Statistics;
  - Federal Transit Administration;

- Federal Highway Administration
- Department of the Treasury
  - Statistics of Income Division, Internal Revenue Service
- Department of Veterans Affairs
  - National Center for Veteran Analysis and Statistics
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Communications Commission
- Federal Reserve Board
- National Science Foundation
  - National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
- Social Security Administration
  - Office of Research Evaluation and Statistics
- U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

### **5. Operations of the Committee**

The Committee will work closely with the ICSP-SACS on determining its priorities, and will report to the ICSP-SACS on its research and findings, as appropriate, and/or when requested. The Committee will meet as needed to meet its mission.

### **6. Subcommittees and Interest Groups**

The Committee may create subcommittees as necessary to study particular issues, organize workshops or seminars, or provide a forum for discussion of particular topics. Subcommittees report to the Committee.

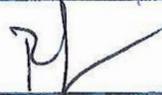
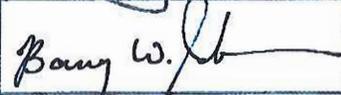
### **7. Amendments and Revisions to this Charter**

It is expected that the activities of the Committee will evolve over time and that this charter will be periodically updated to reflect those changes in activities. However, the principles that underlie those activities will remain – namely that the Committee will work closely with the ICSP-SACS on determining its priorities, and will report to the ICSP-SACS on its research and findings. Amendments and revisions to this charter must be approved by the ICSP-SACS.

**8. Amendment and Revision History**

<b>Date approved</b>	<b>Description of amendment or revision</b>
November 30, 2018	Initial release.

**9. Signatures**

<b>ICSP-SACS Agency Name</b>	<b>ICSP-SACS Agency Head Name</b>	<b>Signature of Agency Head or Designated Second</b>
Office of Management and Budget	Nancy Potok	
Bureau of the Census	Ron Jarmin	
National Center for Health Statistics	Charles Rothwell	
Statistics of Income Division, Internal Revenue Service	Barry Johnson	
National Center for Veteran Analysis and Statistics, Department of Veterans Affairs	Tom Garin	