

Census Steering Committee Meeting

July 10, 2008

Attending: Jeremy Wu, Tammy Coxen, Gary Yakimov, Len Preston, Bob Brown, Matthew Graham, Colleen Flannery, George Putnam, Phil Freije (Census Lawyer), Rick Waclawek, Rich Froeschle, Andy Reamer

Review and Discussion of National Partnership Agreement Plan

- Although we have template approach, there are 49 different agreements with the states. Each has a 10 year period. Some of the earliest agreements were signed in 2000 and are coming up on their 10 year renewal.
- There have been significant changes in information technology, positions, and overall trust in the LED partnership. So Census is proposing that we work on developing a national agreement with as many common elements as possible.
- The proposal is that before the September steering committee meeting Census staff and lawyers will work to come up with a baseline, and we will go through it as a group at the September meeting. Members should look for the baseline to be distributed a week before the September meeting.
- There will still need to be variation by state, but ideally the state terms would be in the form of an Appendix or attachment to the National agreement. Phil Freije will lead a process of looking across the agreements and working with state legal council to agree on terms where there are conflicts or challenges.
- Some particular challenges that appear in early MOUs that are candidates for change include data formats, 5 year reviews, and research access.

Request for Testimonials

- LED Staff are busy preparing a “making the case document” to help ensure inclusion of funding for LED in the 2010 budget initiative.
- They are seeking letters of support from high level officials – Jeremy has samples from the last time such letters were collected, and he will circulate them. In addition, they are looking for testimonials from users and staff on the use and value of the data.
- While the need is somewhat urgent, it was understood that getting letters from high level official letters will require a longer window. There will be an ongoing need for this show of support as the budget initiative moves through the system, so they will be welcomed whenever they are ready.

Communication to LED States and Users

- In recent effort to disseminate information to the states regarding the IT Rules of Behavior and other issues, it has become clear that there is a communications gap.
- There is a broad based listserv of 900 participants which is used to broadcast workshops, and smaller listservs related to specific aspects of the program (such as OnTheMap). In addition, there's a SITCON list that's limited to state partners.
- After discussion, the group agreed to expand the SITCON list to include LMI directors and LED Analysts from partner states, and to use this listserv to "push" information from the LED program out to its members.
- Additionally, the group discussed whether there was interest in developing more of a user community on the broader list. Right now it is primarily used for disseminating information from Census to the members. If there's a desire to promote state-to-Census and state-to-state use of listserv, then that will take some effort to create that environment on the list, through "seeding" of questions to start and then the existence of committed core of individuals to answer questions that are raised by list members. No action items came from the discussion.

Agenda for September Steering Committee Meeting

- The group reviewed the proposed agenda for the September meeting. It includes time to delve deeply into the components of the action plan, and discussion of the National Partnership Agreement as previously described.

Agenda for March LED Workshop

- It is time to begin thinking about the agenda for the March workshop. Ideas should be sent to Gary, Tammy and Jeremy.
- On the call, members suggested a focus on the underlying dynamics - going "behind the growth numbers" and "looking under the hood," as well as emphasizing LED's ability to go beyond typical static sources.