

Census Steering Committee Minutes

Attending: Tammy Coxen, Jeremy Wu, Greg Weeks, Ed Simon, Ruth Pease (for John Dorrer), Matthew Graham, Bob Brown, Gary Yakimov, Colleen Flannery, Ron Jarmin, George Putnam

Administrative Items

- The move to the economic directorate continues to go smoothly.
- There are some personnel changes upcoming in the department. Erika McEntarfer and Frederick Anderson are leaving. Four staff interns have been recruited, and a couple of positions have been opened. Matthew Graham will replace Erika on the steering committee.
- On The Map v3 beta is out for test and evaluation. It is up on the website and the review period ends July 21.
- Committee members discussed dates for the steering committee meeting in September and the LED Workshop in March. A proposal was made to hold the workshop abutting one or the other end of the annual NAWB conference in order to potentially reach a new audience through holding a training session in conjunction with NAWB.
- Work is ongoing to get the last 3 states into the program (CT, NH, MA).

State survey results presentation and discussion

- Tammy presented an overview of data findings from 26 states that responded to the telephone survey.
- The biggest problem identified is funding. States are limited in what they can do with data because of resources.
- Data quality was a concern – one of the best features of LED is the ability to go to the county level and the 4-digit NAICS level – but that exacerbates data quality concerns and is important to pay attention to.
- Participants were interest in training at multiple levels, for state and local users. But travel restrictions are a challenge for many states. Committee members discussed adopting a “train-the-trainer” system to replace the 2-day training sessions, and/or investigating options related to computer based training.
- The training committee will look at detailed results and use it as they move forward and consider certification or other models.
- Best practices can be used to help promote training by making the return on training investment more obvious

Workgroup reports/updates

Best Practices

- An email requesting best practices was sent out to all the states.
- Have received responses from IN, KS, CA so far, and several steering committee members indicated that they had plans to submit.
- The committee agreed that best practices should be housed on Census site, and that new practices could be promoted through the “what’s new” section.
- There was a proposal to create a regular email newsletter highlighting best practices. An “LED Best Practice of the Week (or Month)” that would lay out a problem that a user was facing and how they used LED to solve it. Would need to create and populate an email list with LMI Directors, Lead Analysts, and people who have participated in training workshops.