

Minutes: June 15, 2006 LED Steering Committee Conference Call

Members Present: Becky Rust, Henry Jackson, Erica McEntarfer, Jeremy Wu, Cynthia Swain, George Putnam, Al Tupek, Greg Weeks, Steve Hines

Agenda items and discussion:

1. LED Training

The LMI Institute will collaborate with us to conduct training. This training is for analysts within LMI shops to understand LED data, to learn how to use it, and to teach others to understand and use it. George Putnam, Eric Moore, and Bryce Stephens developed a general curriculum a couple of years ago that may be a good foundation. People within Washington State will develop class materials, teach the class, and generally lead this project. The Institute will hold it at their facility. States will pay travel and training costs for their participants.

Greg will hold a workshop at the LMI Forum in October, advertising this training. Our class will be scheduled after that.

On June 28th and July 5th, the Census Bureau is training data analysts within their 12 regional offices on LED web-based applications. Those data analysts will, in turn, train field personnel of the Economic Development Administration of the Department of Commerce so they can use these tools when responding to grant proposals and monitoring the progress of grants.

Erica is putting together Frequently Asked Questions and Answers. This will include mistakes commonly made when aggregating LED data and will be put on the Census Bureau website.

2. Census Bureau Webpage Tracking Quarterly Production of QWIs

This will be implemented by June 23rd. It will be a simple tracking tool that shows when data arrived at the Census Bureau from each state, when data is being processed by the Census Bureau, and when QWIs are shipped back. The page will be refreshed hourly. It is a pilot and changes will be made every 6 months, if necessary.

3. Priority of Projects

Cynthia compiled a list of projects from past minutes for discussion during this month's call. Jeremy reminded everyone that the role of the Steering Committee is to advise and assist. It is important that the Committee works on a consensus basis. The next step is to rank the projects. The Census Bureau will take the ranking of projects under advisement. Henry suggested the Technical Subcommittee rank projects, then give recommendations to the full committee. Another option is for each Steering Committee member to rank the projects. The ranking process was not decided upon. This may be a task we can make some progress on by email, in order to get more done.

The list, at this point, is:

- Census resources for troubleshooting state data anomalies in the QWIs and On The Map
- QWI definitions and naming inconsistencies
- Collect reports that states are producing showing QWIs and success stories
- New QWI demographics – Race & Ethnicity

Production of 1990 - 2000 NAICS-based QWIs
Data Ferret
Users Group on Census Bureau website
Adding populations to QWIs (public firms)
Synthetic micro data on Cornell for states to use
Skinning On The Map
Comparability of QWIs and Origin Destination data (Technical Subcommittee
will make a recommendation)
QWIs for participants in training programs/QWIs for participants not in training
programs
Put QWIs into WIA measures
Virtual Research Development Centers

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