

TIBC - Data Management Subcommittee

Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

3:30pm to 6:30pm Eastern Time

DRAFT MINUTES

Stages of Data Collection (generalization, conceptually):

- Could start data collection immediately, but should first consider:
 - What problems are there? What are the greatest problems?
 - IA: what is the main question that the labor force report should answer?
 - IA: what kinds of effects could be attributed to the COVID crisis?
 - Needs data to respond to the deficiencies identified in the Broken Promises report.
 - What data needs collected to address this report?
 - Tribal leaders know that programs are underfunded and tribes want the data to make the case for the federal government to fulfill its trust and treaty obligations.
 - Tribal leaders ask why? Why does the fed want to collect?
 - What is the domain of the data collection?
 - Tribal leaders emphasized and are concerned about inaccurate domains of data collection. Specifically, large service areas and service populations when funding is provided to a tribe based, in part, on population of that tribe for a given program.
 - What happens when tribes are adjacent to one another and service areas might overlap?
 - How do we count who counts? Census-type data vs tribal enrollment data.
 - Could do both measures. Enrollment is an important measure, in itself. There is a proposal to collect both sets of data.
 - Does BLS collect any useful data for the Labor Force report or otherwise?
 - Most of the data is by state – disaggregation of data issue.
 - Tribal leaders express that the discussion on service population is a very nuanced conversation with different applications across different federal programs. Tribal leaders urge caution from DOL and IA in consideration of these long-standing and nuanced service population considerations that vary across programs based on their intent and the reality of services provided.
 - What data might already exist? Only ask tribes for data that the Fed doesn't already have.
 - What type of data should be collected?
- Tribal leaders seeking long game in this data collection effort and would like a system in place with the most accurate profile with all relevant factors considered.

- How will the system work to provide timely, useable data?
- Most difficult federal question executing the Labor Force report: What populations are we most trying to serve?
 - Tribal leaders want to see what publicly available data there is for this last labor force report effort by Indian Affairs.
- There is no statistician position at Indian Affairs (in the context of data analytics for the purpose of TIBC and the Labor Force report).
- What was the sample size of the 2018 data collection effort?
 - Some data from the previous year and the previous data collection was used. There was a procedure to affect change in data over time.
 - The report included groups of tribes to account for overlapping populations and would not report separately for each tribe. The overlapping service areas may have skewed data toward inaccuracy.
- Tribal leaders believe the Census data is an undercount and can prove the data is inaccurate in certain instances. The issue is in deeming the data as accurate and its effects on funding and data collection.
 - DOL: Understands but it is universally collected and ideally universally undercounted, then the data can be used/adjusted for undercounts.
 - When comparing other available options for collecting Census-type data, is one necessarily better than the other?
 - Some tribal leaders oppose the use of aboriginal territories as a measure of service area.
- Would tribes prefer to seek a better form of collecting data for use in tribal programs?
 - Not necessarily. Tribal leaders expressed that they just want accurate data for tribal and federal use.
- DOL: What data do tribes already collect that could be useful for measuring in the labor force report.
 - Varies greatly from tribe to tribe based on governmental capacity and the types of data they collect for the programs that they operate.
- IA: Unemployed workers vs discouraged workers.
 - Unemployment definition involves someone looking for employment in the last four weeks.
 - Discouraged worker – do not have jobs but would like one.
 - Is there a better definition that would better capture the economic circumstance of tribal communities?
- How can this subcommittee assist with data collection?
 - Tribal leaders would like to further discuss what data needs collected and what data is out there. What is missing, what needs to be changed?
 - Tribal leaders and federal partners agree on recurring meetings of the Data Management Subcommittee – in the coming weeks.
 - Request to have DOL and IA (Steve) join.
 - Jeannine will send out some proposed dates to the group to keep the work up.
- Protecting tribal data:
 - What are primary concerns?
 - Historically, there were concerns about using the data for means testing.

- Proper classification and handling of tribal data.
- How can we help address them?
 - A policy document signed at the highest level restricting the use of data collected for specified uses?
 - Are there notes from that effort last time? What were the previous concerns? Tribal leaders request any data that may be available.

During the Data Management Subcommittee meeting, attendees discussed the statutory language directing the Department of Labor to develop, maintain and publish a report on the population eligible for the services which the Secretary [of the Interior] provides to Indian people:

25 U.S.C. §3416. Labor market information on Indian work force

(a) Report

The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary, Indian tribes, and the Director of the Bureau of the Census, shall develop, maintain and publish, not less than biennially, a report on the population eligible for the services which the Secretary provides to Indian people. The report shall include, but is not limited to, information at the national level by State, Bureau of Indian Affairs Service area, and tribal level for the-

- (1) total service population;
- (2) the service population under age 16 and over 64;
- (3) the population available for work, including those not considered to be actively seeking work;
- (4) the employed population, including those employed with annual earnings below the poverty line; and
- (5) the numbers employed in private sector positions and in public sector positions.