

Begin forwarded message:

From: "U.S. Census Bureau: Tribal Affairs" <ocia.tao@census.gov>

Date: December 12, 2020 at 5:57:21 PM EST

To: "Quorum Example (BCC)" <dee.alexander66@gmail.com>

Subject: Tribal Affairs: Tribal Consultation POSTPONED



**Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
Intergovernmental Affairs Office
Tribal Affairs Team**

Update on ongoing tribal consultation with the Census Bureau

The U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Commerce are committed to strengthening the government-to-government relationships with federally recognized tribes. As a part of this relationship the Census Bureau is engaging in an ongoing consultation with tribal leaders and stakeholders on the 2020 Census Disclosure Avoidance System.

We urge tribes to consider the discussion questions enclosed below. Your input is invaluable to us in our process.

The Tribal Consultation National Webinar with federally recognized tribes across the country and the Census Bureau scheduled for December 16, 2020, will be rescheduled for a future date, due to our focus on the ongoing work to produce complete and accurate 2020 Census apportionment data. A final decision on the use of differential privacy in 2020 Census data products will not be made until the Tribal Consultation National Webinar is held.

Thank you for your leadership, and we look forward to announcing a rescheduled webinar date for the tribal consultation as soon as possible.

Discussion Questions / Input Requested

1. How does your tribe use data from the redistricting (P.L. 94-171) data product? Please be specific as to the use, variable(s), and level(s) of geography.

Example: "Our tribal government uses total population counts at the Census tract level, as a percentage of the total state population, to apply for state-administered social assistance grants."

2. How does your tribe use data from the Demographic Profiles and Demographic and Housing Characteristics data products? Please be specific as to the use, variable(s), and level(s) of geography.

Example: “Our native village uses average household size and race/ethnicity composition at the block group level to apply for state- administered housing grants, which accounted for 27% of our annual housing assistance budget in 2019.”

3. With the understanding that protecting the privacy of Census respondents requires that some uncertainty/noise be added to the data (as it has been in prior Censuses), which of the use cases that you identified in question #1 are most important to your tribe?

4. With the understanding that protecting the privacy of Census respondents requires that some uncertainty/noise be added to the data (as it has been in prior Censuses), at what level of statistical uncertainty would the tabulations included in the redistricting (P.L. 94-171), Demographic Profiles, or Demographic and Housing Characteristics files no longer be usable for the use cases that you identified in question #1

Example: “If total population at the Census tract level differed from the enumerated count by more than +/-3%, our tribe would be obligated to rely on other data sources as evidence to support our grant applications.” Or “If the AIAN Alone or in Combination population of our county differed from the enumerated count by more than 10 persons, we would be unable to rely upon the data for our tribe’s demographic projections because they would be less accurate than the data we collect ourselves.”

Your input on these discussion questions or other issues is requested both before and during the consultation meetings. Tribal governments are encouraged to share insights, make recommendations, and discuss issues or concerns about the proposed consultation topics.

How to Submit Your Input and Comments

Tribal leaders are encouraged to submit comments and feedback about the discussion questions listed in this document using one or more of the four options below:

1. Submit your comments by mail. Send comments to:

Dee Alexander, Tribal Affairs Coordinator
Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233

NOTE: Sending comments by mail may result in a delay in the Census Bureau receiving them due to limited staffing in the Census Bureau headquarters. We encourage you to consider another method of delivery. If you do need to use mail, please let us know to watch for the mailing.

2. Submit your comments by email. Send comments to:

OCIA.TAO@census.gov

3. Submit your comments by fax. Send comments to:

301-763-3780

NOTE: If you decide to fax comments, please call the Tribal Affairs office at 301-763-6100 to let us know to watch for your submission.

4. Bring your comments to the consultation meeting when it is rescheduled.

About the Intergovernmental Affairs Office: Tribal Affairs

The Tribal Affairs team works closely with American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) tribal nations on a government-to-government basis to address issues concerning tribal self-government. The government-to-government relation is based on the United States Constitution, federal treaties, policy, law, court decisions, executive orders, and the ongoing political relationship among tribal nations and the federal government. The Intergovernmental Affairs Office serves as the principal liaison office for tribal affairs and is the principal advisor to the Director and executive staff on tribal issues and concerns. The team's work focuses on collaborating with other agencies, building and maintaining relationships with tribal leaders, tribal associations, and tribal citizens in order to educate, inform, consult and share program information from across the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sincerely,

Dee Alexander
Tribal Affairs Coordinator
U.S. Census Bureau

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Contact Information
301-763-6100 | OCIA.TAO@census.gov

Tribal Affairs Team
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