

Agenda Item Number 10.f

Census Programs

Presenter: Byron Vanderpool

Action Recommended: None. Information Only

Background:

Activities in advance of the 2010 Census continue apace. New programs are being regularly announced, resulting in some confusion. An example of this is the recently announced New Construction Program, which invited cities and counties to provide the Census Bureau with updated information. LCOG has received a number of inquiries as to whether or not agencies can expect LCOG to submit information to the Bureau under this program.

Only cities and counties can officially participate in this New Construction Program, but LCOG can submit information on their behalf if so designated. We are working with Lane County and the cities to determine which wish us to respond on their behalf.

With regard to the PO Box issue under the Complete Count Program, LCOG is acting as a liaison between our small cities and Census Bureau outreach specialists in an effort to ensure that PO Box users who do not get home mail delivery do not get missed in the 2010 Census. There apparently is no high-level agreement between the US Postal Service and the Census Bureau that would give blanket authority for local Postmasters to insert Census questionnaires directly into PO Boxes, but local Postmasters may have some flexibility in this regard. Each city administrator or manager (or mayor) is being encouraged to contact their local postmaster to discuss the issue and to build a partnership that will allow Census forms to be placed in PO Boxes, or to provide lobby space for a Census Questionnaire Assistance Center, or to take whatever steps are possible to ensure that Census forms are provided to PO Box users.

Here is a brief summary of LCOG's role in other Census Bureau programs:

Under the Consolidated Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) program, LCOG sought and was granted an official designation from each city, and we are now able to submit a single update each year that covers all 12 cities.

Local Update of Census Address (LUCA) is not a "consolidated" program, but because Lane County designated us as their official LUCA liaison, our LUCA participation (on behalf of Lane County) covers the entire County, including all of the cities. Cities can choose to participate in LUCA on their own, in which case their submission takes precedence over LCOG's for that particular city.

For the Participant Statistical Area Program (PSAP), the Census Bureau solicited LCOG to be the "primary participant" for Lane County, and we agreed.

For the Count Review Program (CRP), which we only recently learned about, the Population Research Center at PSU is really the sole participating agency for the entire state, and recently made a request to Lane County for certain taxlot and site address information, which has been forwarded to us at LCOG. We are in contact with PSU staff on the details of that request.

Feel free to contact LCOG staff if you have any questions about the New Construction program or any other Census programs or activities. Please have a look at our website for a brief summary of Census-related activities here at LCOG: <http://www.lcog.org/news.cfm>