

# REGIONAL SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF AREAS PRIORITY INFORMATION NEED POLICY SUMMARY PHASE I

## *Regional Data Specifications*

### DESIRED SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF AREAS DATA SPECIFICATIONS

The Phase I solution to MetroGIS Socioeconomic Characteristics of Areas Information Need focuses on the priority socioeconomic information needs<sup>1</sup> of the MetroGIS community that can be satisfied with existing published data. These data are published by a number of organizations including federal, state, metropolitan, county, and non-profit authorities. To help the user community more easily locate data with specifications consistent with identified desired characteristics, MetroGIS facilitated the development and long-term maintenance of the Web-based Socioeconomic Resources Page at ([www.datafinder.org/mg/socioeconomic\\_resources/index.asp](http://www.datafinder.org/mg/socioeconomic_resources/index.asp)).

The subject data have simply been cited and summarized in the Resources Page, along with information about how to obtain them. The producers have not been contacted, other than to clarify descriptions of their respective data holdings.

## *Roles and Responsibilities*

### A. PRIMARY CUSTODIAN

Numerous entities including federal, state, metropolitan, county, and non-profit authorities.

### B. PRIMARY CUSTODIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

No agreement has been sought by MetroGIS with any of the many cited primary producers. Each of the cited data sources is a long time, trusted publisher of data that is a product of their respective internal business needs.

### C. REGIONAL CUSTODIANS

The University of Minnesota's Minnesota Population Center has accepted custodian responsibility to maintain the content of the MetroGIS Socioeconomic Web Resources Page ([www.datafinder.org/mg/socioeconomic\\_resources/index.asp](http://www.datafinder.org/mg/socioeconomic_resources/index.asp)) and the Metropolitan Council has accepted custodial responsibility for the hardware, software and related support necessary to provide access to the Socioeconomic Resources Page via the Internet.

### D. REGIONAL CUSTODIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

#### **1. Content of Resources Page:**

The University of Minnesota's Minnesota Population Center has accepted the following custodial responsibilities:

- a) **Maintain Technical Integrity:** Periodically check the URL links to data sources cited in the Resources Page to make certain they are still live. If a link is broken, they will research and replace the link. This

activity will occur comprehensively at least one time per year (*December*) according to a schedule approved by the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee, and as notified by users. All changes will be conveyed to the Metropolitan Council GIS Department in a format, acceptable to both parties, that clearly communicates the changes proposed.

- b) **Monitor Currency of Site Content:** Inform MetroGIS, via the MetroGIS Staff Coordinator, of any new socioeconomic data sources that provide sub-state and/or sub-regional information, which MetroGIS should consider adding to the Resources Page (for example, the American Community Survey (ACS) when it begins delivering more complete data coverage.) In this case, the regional custodian will draft text for a *Data Source* page on ACS along with new entries for the *Data Resource Page*. The Custodian will spend 2 hours per month on discovery of new data sources.
- c) **Monitor User Satisfaction:** Participate in forums/discussions sponsored by MetroGIS that pertain to the Socioeconomic Data Resources Page and participate in subsequent discussions about which recommended enhancements to implement. Answer user questions related to data content whenever possible.

## **2. Maintenance of the Web server**

The Metropolitan Council has accepted the following custodial responsibilities:

- a) **Provide Server Support:** Provide and maintain all hardware, software and related support necessary to host the Socioeconomic Data Resources Page in an Internet environment, including but not limited to data archive, backup, retrieval and disaster recovery.
- b) **Implement Resource Page Changes:** Upon notification from the MetroGIS Staff Coordinator of approved changes to the Resources Page, modify the site to implement these changes.
- c) **Manage Feedback Link:** Comments obtained via the feedback link from the Resources Page will be consolidated not less than quarterly.
- d) **Communicate Feedback to MetroGIS:** Feedback received via the Resources Page link will be transmitted periodically to the MetroGIS Staff Coordinator who will share it with the Coordinating Committee for direction.

## **E. METROGIS RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Monitor Satisfaction and Oversee Implementation of Desired Improvements:** As requests and/or opportunities become known through user feedback and following major data release events, such as the decennial Census, the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee will provide direction to the Minnesota Population Center as to MetroGIS's preferences to address such matters. MetroGIS will also host a Data Users Forum every 3-5 years, beginning in Spring 2005 or as otherwise determined by the Coordinating Committee, to obtain feedback from the MetroGIS community as to desired enhancements to the Resources Page and any associated data access, content, documentation and/or distribution policy(ies).

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<sup>1</sup> The research conducted by MetroGIS to identify the community's priority socioeconomic information needs is summarized at [http://www.metrogis.org/data/info\\_needs/socioeconomic\\_characteristics/index.shtml#data](http://www.metrogis.org/data/info_needs/socioeconomic_characteristics/index.shtml#data).