

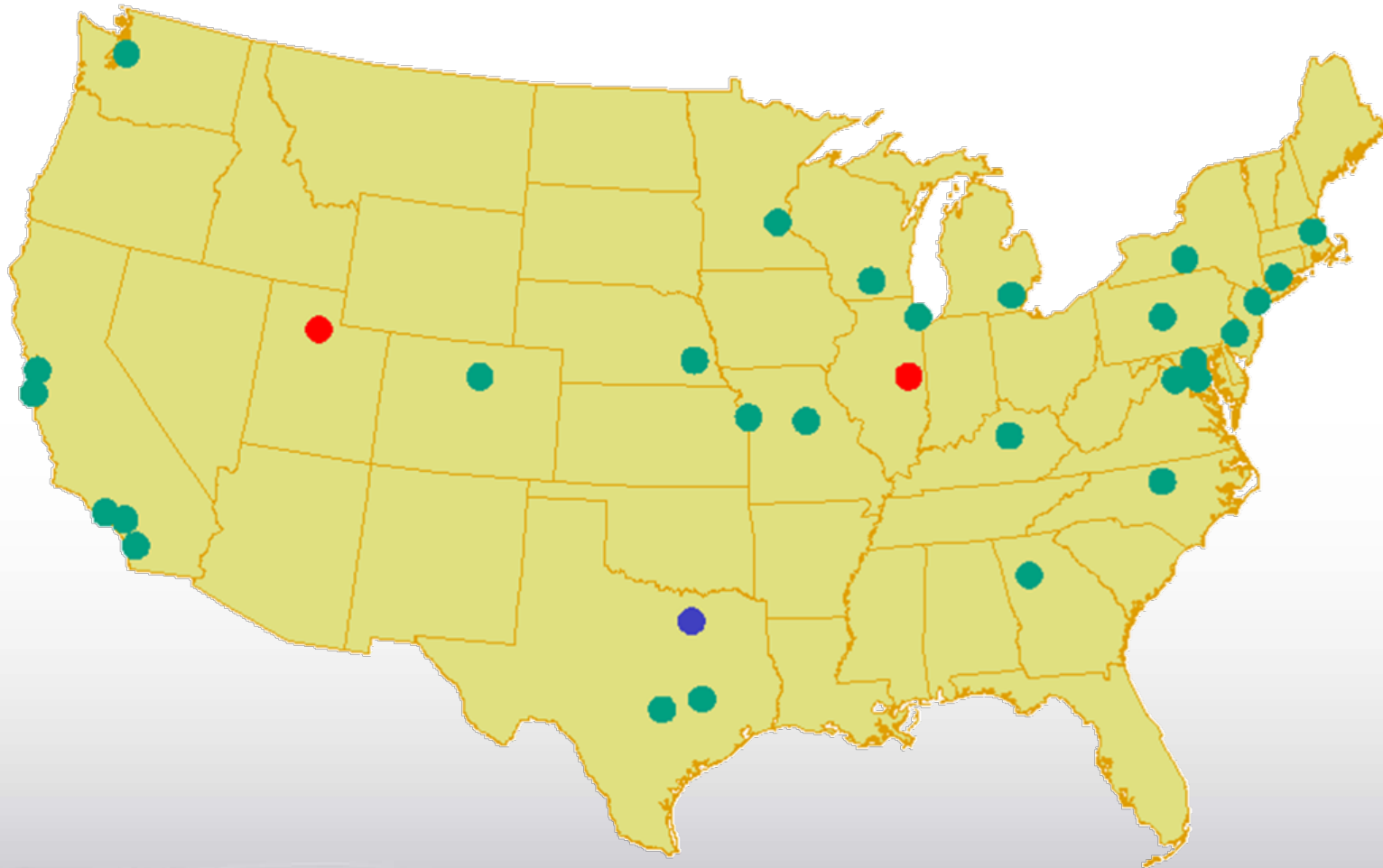
# Proposal Process for Accessing Census Bureau Microdata

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*Any opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Census Bureau.*

# Research Data Centers



# DFW FSRDC Consortium



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# Data Products

- [www.census.gov/ces](http://www.census.gov/ces)
  - Data Products tab
  - Restricted-Use Data
  
- [www.census.gov/fsrdc](http://www.census.gov/fsrdc)

# Data Availability

- Census Bureau Data
    - Economic Data
      - establishment or firm level
    - Demographic Data
      - household or individual level
    - Combined Employer/Employee Data
      - Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD)
- 

- Health Data
  - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
  - National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics

# Internal Microdata Advantages

- No public versions for some datasets
- Greater detail and finer geography
- Larger sample sizes
- Linking Data (economic)
  - Consistent identifiers
  - Business Register
    - External data

# Data from Partnering Agencies Accessible in the RDC

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- National Center for Health Statistics
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- *Bureau of Economic Analysis (in the works)*
- Proposal process is with individual agencies and not Census
  - Security background check still with Census

# Why do you need a proposal?

- Internal data is confidential
  - Titles 13 & 26 U.S.C. and CIPSEA
- Use is limited to statistical purposes only
- Only Census employees and temporary staff can access microdata
- Requirement of benefits to Census Bureau



# Proposal Process

1. Identify research idea & datasets
2. Email me and Wenhua
  - Include a couple paragraphs of your research idea
3. Preliminary proposal
4. Proposal development
5. Census Review
  - Other Agency Review
6. Special Sworn Status application

# Proposal Components

1. Abstract
2. Description of the project
3. Predominant Purpose State (PPS)

# Abstract

- One page description of the project
  - Research Idea
  - Benefits to Census
    - Benefits to other agencies, if required

# Project Description

## 1. Introduction

- Background and Literature

## 2. Methodology

## 3. Requested Data

## 4. Expected Output

- Plans for disclosure avoidance

## 5. Duration and Funding

# Project Description, Methodology/Data Sections

- Empirical specification & statistical equations
  - Need a clear connection to data
- Requested restricted data and external data
  - *Why the need for restricted data?*
  - *What are the key variables?*
  - *How will the data be linked?*
  - *What is the unit of observation?*
  - *How the process will benefit the Census Bureau?*

# Predominant Purpose Statement

1. Evaluating concepts and practices, continued relevance
2. Analyzing demographic and social or economic processes that affect Census programs
3. Increasing the utility of Census Bureau data for analyzing public programs, public policy, and/or demographic, economic, or social conditions
4. Conducting data collection, processing or dissemination

\*Demographic data only (no Federal Tax Information)

# Predominant Purpose Statement

5. **Understanding/improving the quality of data**
6. Improved methodology to collect, measure, or tabulate
7. **Enhancing the data collected (e.g. imputation, links)**
8. Limitations/improving the Business Register
9. New data collection needs
10. Constructing, verifying, improving sampling frames
11. **Estimates/characteristics of population**
12. Methodology for estimating non-response
13. Developing statistical weights for a survey

# Proposal Review

- Census Review
  - Benefit to Census
  - Scientific merit
  - Need for non-public data
  - Feasibility
  - Risk of disclosure
- Other Agency Review
- Special Sworn Status application



# Timeline

- Census review, (1-3 months)
  - (if needed) IRS review (3-7 additional months)
- After approval, SSS Packet
- Background check (2-3 months)
  - Additional security process for non-citizens

# Timeline

- Initial email to me and Wenhua
  - Preliminary proposal
  - Proposal development
    - Involving RDC administrator
  - Census Review (1-3 months)
    - Other Agency Review (additional 3-7 months, if needed)
  - Special Sworn Status application (2-3 months)
    - Additional security process for non-citizens
  - Project work (3-5 years)
- } (?)

# Call to Action

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[wenhua.di@dal.frb.gov](mailto:wenhua.di@dal.frb.gov)

- Send us a quick proposal pitch
  - Proposal Registration Form
  - Send me simple data questions
- Request a meeting in person
  - Include an itinerary if possible
- [www.census.gov/ces](http://www.census.gov/ces)
- [www.census.gov/fsrdc](http://www.census.gov/fsrdc)
  - RDC Research Opportunities tab