

GENERAL CDFI FUND CENSUS TRANSITION QUESTIONS

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1. What’s timeline for the CDFI Fund to update Program eligibility criteria based on the 2006-2010 American Community Survey Data
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The CDFI Fund is currently analyzing the Census Bureau’s 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) to update eligible areas for all programs based on new poverty income and unemployment data. The CDFI Fund expects to release new tables showing program eligibility by Census tract based on the following timeline, subject to change:

- New Markets Tax Credit Program: May 2012.
- CDFI FA/TA and NACA Programs: February 2013.
- Bank Enterprise Award Program: Summer 2013.

Guidance governing this transition will be released along with the new eligibility tables.

2. Will the new 2006-2010 ACS eligibility data be immediately available in the CDFI Fund’s Community Investment Mapping System (CIMS)?

A limited update of the Community Investment Mapping System (CIMS) has been completed for only CDFI and NACA program eligibility which uses the 2006-2010 ACS data applied to the 2010 census tracts (identified as “CDFI Program Target Markets—2010 Data” in the CIMS mapping program).

A new CIMS is currently under development which will provide mapping capabilities for all of the CDFI Fund’s programs. The new CIMS is expected to be available in the fall of 2013 and it will allow users for all programs to locate eligible Census tracts, generate maps, and geocode addresses to the new Census tract boundaries.

3. What is the American Community Survey (ACS) data?

Up through the 2000 Census, the Census Bureau collected detailed demographic, housing, social and economic information by administering a “long form” survey to a sample of all US households every decade. In 2005, the Census Bureau launched the American Community Survey (ACS) to replace the functions performed by the “long form.” The ACS collects socioeconomic and housing information continuously from a national sample of housing units and people living in group quarters. As opposed to the point-in-time estimate provided by the decennial census, the ACS provides a five-year average of information that can be refreshed more frequently.

For more detailed information on the American Community Survey, please visit the U.S. Census Bureau website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/>. More information on the ACS can also be found in the U.S. Census Bureau handbook, “A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What General Data Users Need to Know.” <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/handbooks/ACSGeneralHandbook.pdf>

4. Why is the CDFI Fund transitioning from the 2000 Census data to the 2006-2010 ACS data applied to the 2010 census tracts?

On December 8, 2011, the US Census Bureau released the 2006-2010 ACS data as the successor to the 2000 census “long form” data. It is the first data set that provides income and poverty data for the 2010 Census tracts. With the availability of the new data, the CDFI Fund is updating its program eligibility criteria accordingly. The new ACS data will allow CDFI Fund eligibility criteria to reflect the most recently available data on income and poverty in the United States.

Currently, the CDFI Fund intends to stagger the release of the new program eligibility criteria throughout 2012 and 2013 (see question 1 for more details).

5. What's the difference between the 2000 census "long form" data and the 2006-2010 ACS data?

The 2000 Census data is a point-in-time estimate collected at the same time as demographic data for the 2000 Census. The 2006-2010 ACS is a five-year average based on data collected continuously from 2006 to 2010. Income figures from across the five-year sample have been adjusted to reflect 2010 dollars.

6. Does switching to the ACS data mean that the CDFI Fund will update program eligibility criteria more frequently?

The ACS data is a 5-year moving average that is updated annually. The CDFI Fund has determined that it would be administratively burdensome on our reporting systems to update the eligibility data annually. At this time, the possibility of refreshing the eligibility data more often than once every ten years is still under consideration. At this point, the earliest that the CDFI Fund would consider updating the data is in five years, when the 2011-2015 ACS data is released.