

Part B-V

LEAD AGENCY/BUREAU AND/OR SUBCOMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP REPORT (Agencies with Lead Responsibilities Assigned under the new Circular A-16 in Appendix E - <http://www.fgdc.gov/publications/a16final.html#appendix>) (Please provide a separate report for each activity for which you have the lead)

1. Program/Activity Name:
Governmental Units

2. What are the specific federal programs this data supports?

Censuses and surveys conducted by the Census Bureau are specifically dependent upon governmental units data. Governmental units data supports any data collection or tabulation activities by the Federal government that are based upon governmental units, which includes the majority of data.

3. Uses of Data: How does your data benefit customers and support agency missions?

Governmental unit boundary data provides the framework by which most statistical data are collected and to which they are tabulated. Through establishing a consistent way to collect and interchange governmental unit boundary data and facilitate their maintenance, analysis, and comparison, the governmental units theme supports the majority of federal, state, local, academic and private-vendor geographic statistical programs.

4. Charter/Plan: Do you have a current charter or plan for collection? If so - please describe (include how recently the charter/plan was implemented and whether it is in need of update).

The Census Bureau has collected and maintained boundary information for over 50 years, and the collection plans are under continuous review and improvement. Census utilizes state, local, and tribal information when updating boundaries whenever possible. Other agencies, according to their own missions and schedules, collect governmental unit boundary data as well.

5. Metadata Status: Is metadata discoverable and served through the NSDI Clearinghouse? What percentage of this theme's data has metadata and is in a Clearinghouse node?

Until recently, the Census Bureau has forwarded its metadata to the USGS for maintenance on their server. The Census Bureau is currently constructing a NSDI compliant server outside its firewall that will hold public metadata and some Census data.

6. Standards: What is the status of this theme's data, process, transfer, and classification standards?

The governmental unit data content standard has been informally available for review and comment on the Census Bureau website since June, 2002. In

August, 2002, the Governmental Units Framework proposal was submitted for review through the ANSI/INCITS L1 process. The standard will now be approved through the ANSI process as a Geospatial One-Stop framework standard, and its format and content have been adjusted accordingly. The draft standard has been available for Geospatial One-Stop volunteer participant review since October 1, 2002 and will be available ANSI/INCITS L1 review in January, 2003.

7. Progress: List FY 2001/2002 activities/progress to date (quantify where possible).

The draft Governmental Unit Boundary Data Content Standard has been presented at the NACo Conference and ESRI Conference, both in July, 2002. In addition, the draft standard was presented at the Subcommittee on Cultural and Demographic meeting, June 2002. The draft standard will be submitted for public review in accordance with ANSI and FGDC standards development steps.

8. Policy: Do you have a formal agency policy in place for full and open access or data sharing? Are you able to fulfill this policy and provide public access with your current agency financial resources as allocated or are you in pursuit of collaborative federal partnerships to support data access?

Governmental Units, including metadata, are included as component in the vast collection of data products produced by the Census Bureau that are available to the public. Boundary data will also be made available through the National Map program of USGS.

9. Are there areas or issues regarding lead responsibilities for spatial data themes that require attention, or lessons-learned that you would like to share with others? Please describe.

None.