

Date: April 17, 2012

To: Texas SDC/BIDC Affiliates and Texas Data Users

From: Lloyd Potter, Director
Texas State Data Center

Subject: Annual SDC/BIDC Conference for Texas Data Users - Registration

The annual Texas State Data Center and Business and Industry Data Center conference for data users is being held **May 22-23, 2012** at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Austin. Pre-registration materials for the 2012 conference are now available on our web site <http://txsdc.utsa.edu>. This conference is not restricted to SDC/BIDC affiliate agencies. Our annual meetings provide updates on current and future demographic and socioeconomic data releases while providing an excellent opportunity to network with other public and private data users in Texas.

Conference Facilities and Lodging: The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Austin is located at 6505 I-35 North with free self-parking for guests. The hotel is offering our registrants pre-reserved rooms at the state rate (\$108/single, \$128/double). Please note that **you must register with the hotel by May 1, 2012** and tell them you are with the **Texas State Data Center** group to receive this rate. You may make reservations by calling the hotel directly at 512-454-3737 or by calling Toll-Free 800-347-0330. We would appreciate your staying at the conference hotel if at all possible as the costs of our meeting facilities depend on the number of guest rooms occupied by our group. Please help keep the registration fees low for everyone.

Workshop: Our Data User Conference will begin with a half-day workshop on the afternoon of May 22nd. Workshop attendees may plan to register beginning at noon. A light lunch will be available in the meeting room and the session will begin at 1:00 pm. In response to our pre-conference survey sent to previous attendees, the 2012 workshop will focus on “Population Estimation Techniques for Local Areas”. This overview will provide estimates methods appropriate for small area populations, discussion of data sources, examples of small area estimation procedures and techniques for evaluating the quality of population estimates.

Conference: On May 23rd, specialists from the Dallas and Denver Regional Offices of the Census Bureau will provide updates concerning Census Bureau re-organization. We will also receive information concerning ongoing census activities, a review of data released since our last meeting and new data products to be available in the next year. Since a primary goal of our SDC/BIDC data network is to disseminate data products and inform the public, the regional Census staff will then provide us with additional training to enhance our understanding of Economic and Business data available from the Census Bureau.

The SDC/BIDC conferences always provide the opportunity to renew acquaintances, discuss current issues, and make new contacts, so we hope you and your colleagues will join us. As always, this conference is not exclusively for SDC/BIDC affiliates so if you know other data users who would find these sessions informative please encourage them to join us in Austin.

Please pre-register for this conference by completing an online [Registration Form](#) by May 1, 2012. If you have colleagues who might be interested in attending this conference and workshop, please refer them to the meeting and registration materials available on our web site, <http://txsdc.utsa.edu>. Also, remember to **register with the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel by May 1, 2012** and mention that you are attending the Texas State Data Center meeting to receive the state rate. If you have any questions, please contact Monica Bowden, Beverly Pecotte, or me at (210) 458-6543.

Thank you for pre-registering and for staying at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Austin. We look forward to seeing you in May.