

TIPS & TRENDS IN USE OF CENSUS DATA

DEBRA RHINEHART, CITY OF SEATTLE HUMAN SERVICES DEPT.

DEBRA.RHINEHART@SEATTLE.GOV

◉ Tips:

- ◉ **Be proactive about finding data sources:** Keep your “interesting facts/plans”: file up to date and check the Census, State Econ. Forecast Council, and Puget Sound Regional Council websites often
- ◉ **Industry and/or population specific national advocacy or foundation websites** often have a wealth of descriptive data for your topic (check for permission to use or if data is public domain info)
- ◉ **Cite your sources:** increases credibility and leaves a breadcrumb trail for grant reviewers and stakeholders to pursue your topic
- ◉ **Specifically match your grant application to needs identified** by funders; read a funder’s strategic plans!
- ◉ **Participate in consortiums for applications:** applicants may be able to pool resources to conduct needs assessment or special survey work
- ◉ **Use the Census resources**—data is more intuitive, online interactive and FREE

◉ Trends:

- ◉ **Increase understanding of the relationships between ACS and 2010 Census data.** ACS provides population profile details and Census can be mapped to specific geographic areas—grant writers need both types of data.
- ◉ **Encourage more and better coordination between Census bureau and federal funding agencies.** Fed agencies have a stake in ease of access to data because their regulations often require grantees to use such data for applications.
- ◉ **Trend is clearly toward regional planning;** but we still have to preserve ability to give jurisdiction specific data to our policy/decision-makers (e.g. homeless service system County-wide; but Seattle City Council still wants Seattle specific data.)