



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs

Initiatives to Modernize the Federal Statistical System: Access to Federal Data

ERS/COPAFS Workshop:
Making the Most of Federal Data: Combining Data for Economic Analysis
Washington, DC
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BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

Data Access: An ICSP Priority

- Why is data access a priority?
- What is the role of the FSRDC program?
- Who is involved?
- How does it work?
- How do I learn more?

Why is data access a priority?

Opportunities:

- Rich data environment
 - (Hundreds) of thousands of data sets
- Improved technology environment
 - Capability to link and analyze large amounts of data in relatively small amount of time
- Improved methodology environment
 - Advancements in methods & technologies continue to grow
- Potential to answer BIG questions by linking data from different sources

Why else?

Challenges:

- Protecting confidential information – data security
- Guarding against disclosures
- Adhering to individual agency statutes governing access to data (e.g., Title 26, Title 13, etc.)

The role of the FSRDC program

- Facilitate research for statistical purposes
- Increase access to a wide variety of microdata
- Protect confidentiality and avoid disclosures
- Improve the utility and quality of federal data
- Address policy questions

Key Partners in the FSRDC Program

- Federal statistical agencies
- Local institutions
- Researchers

Federal Agency Partners (as of July 2018)

Active:

- U.S. Census Bureau
- National Center for Health Statistics
- Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality
- Bureau of Labor Statistics

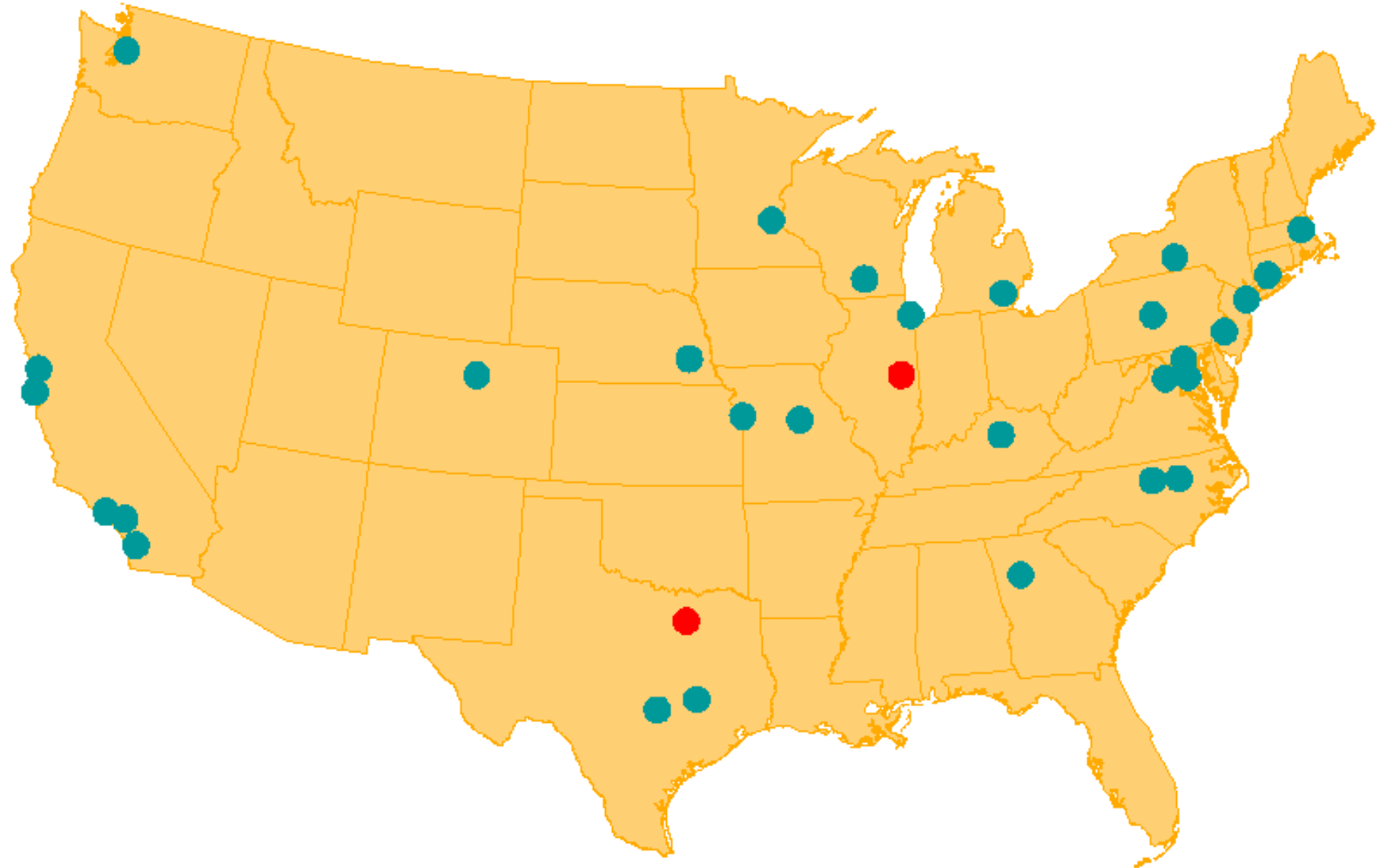
In progress:

- Bureau of Economic Analysis
- Statistics of Income Division (IRS)

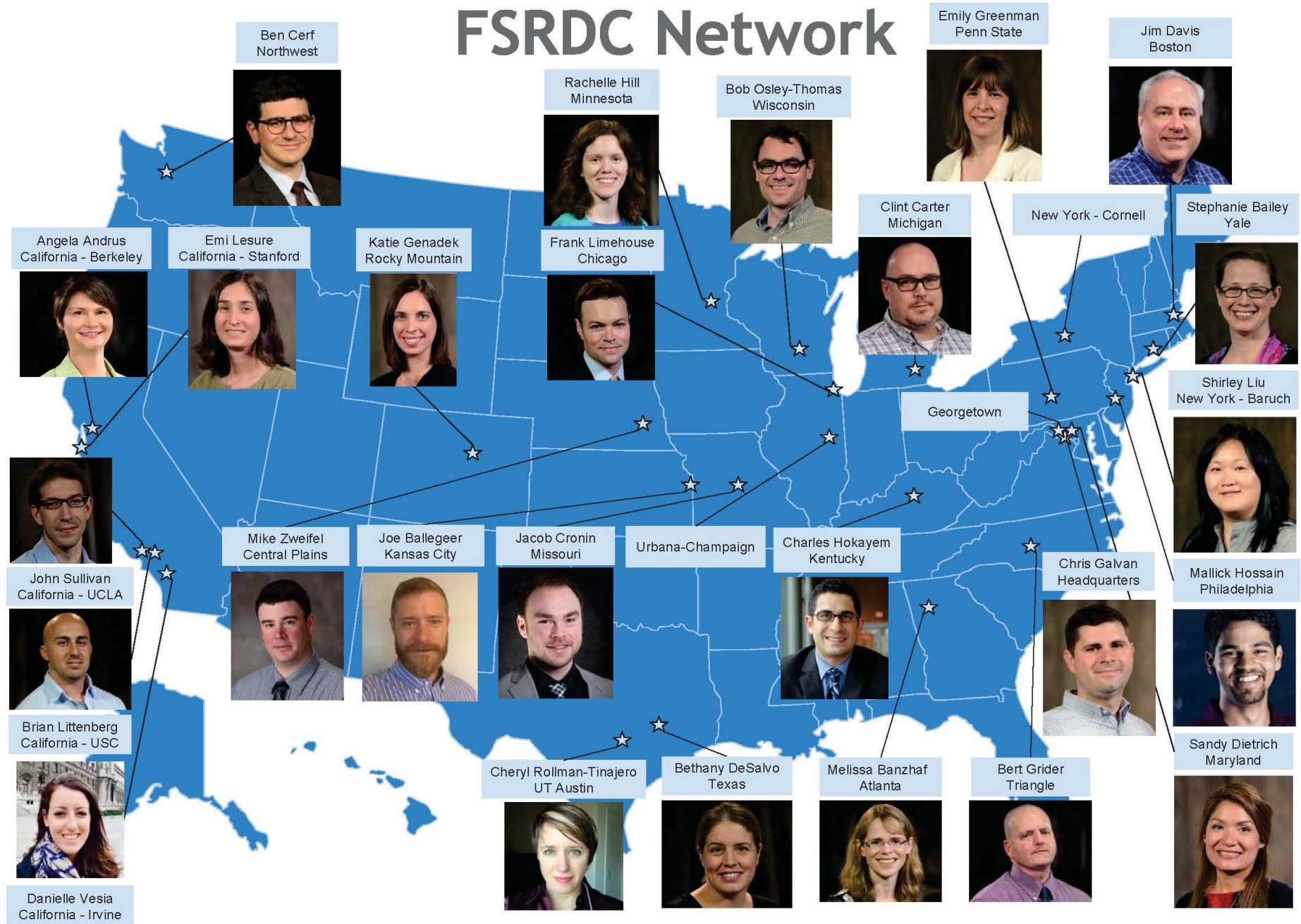
Data contributors:

BJS, BTS, EIA, EPA, ERS, HUD, NCSES, SSA

Location of Institutional Partners



FSRDC Network



Background & History

- Builds on RDCs established by the Census Bureau in mid-1980's
 - 1st RDC at Census headquarters
 - Expanded to Boston & Carnegie Mellon in mid-1990's
- Census Bureau & NSF partner to expand the program in 1998
- NCHS & AHRQ sign on in mid-2000's
- Rebranded as FSRDC Program in 2015

Program Management

- FSRDC Director housed at Center for Economic Studies
 - Manages daily operations
 - Staffing
 - IT
 - Physical Security
 - Legal agreements

Physical Infrastructure

Controlled access:

- Secure Census facility at a host institution
- Census employee on-site at all locations
- Special sworn statutes for all authorized personnel (including researchers)

Restricted, secure IT:

- No internet access
- Direct access to secure data servers
- Strictly controlled printing

Mandatory Disclosure Review

- Analyses are model-based, tabulations discouraged
- Multiple layers of review
 - FSRDC administrator
 - Center for Disclosure Avoidance

Shared Governance

- Co-chairs
 - Chief Statistician, Nancy Potok (non-voting)
 - Elected member from Committee
- Statistical Agency Partners (voting)
 - BEA
 - BLS
 - NCHS
 - SOI
 - Census Bureau
- Institutional Partners (non-voting)
- Ex-officio members (non-voting)
 - Census Bureau CIO
 - FSRDC Director/Executive Secretariat
 - ICSP liaison (BJS)

Shared Governance Goals

- Harmonized procedures
 - One-stop-shop for researchers
- Multi-agency research projects
- New access modes & more data
- Shared oversight & costs

For more information on the FSRDC Program:

- Go to www.census.gov/fsrdc
- Contact
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For more information on shared governance

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Questions?

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FSRDC Network

