

From the Director  
U.S. Census Bureau

The U.S. Census Bureau is notifying you about a new program called the Geographic Support System Initiative (GSS-I). The purpose of the program is to collect address and geographic updates throughout the decade to update and maintain the Master Address File (MAF)/Topologically Integrated Geocoding and Referencing System (TIGER) database (MTDB). The GSS-I builds on the accomplishments of last decade's MAF/TIGER Enhancement Program, which redesigned the MAF/TIGER database, improved the positional accuracy of TIGER spatial features, and emphasized quality measurement.

The GSS-I supports a targeted, rather than nationwide Address Canvassing operation during 2019 to prepare for the 2020 Decennial Census. The goal is to establish an acceptable address list for each level of government, through discussion and data-exchange between the government and the Census Bureau. In addition, the on-going update process will benefit current surveys, including the American Community Survey. This will lead to improved data collection and data quality.

The address improvement activities include exploring methodologies to achieve complete coverage and a current address list, as well as improving the geocoding of all addresses to their physical location. The feature improvement activities include an ongoing update of the street network and attributes to facilitate improving the successful assignment of addresses to their correct geography. The quality improvement involves broadening the quality assessment and providing quantitative measures of quality.

The GSS-I is a voluntary geographic partnership program authorized by Title 13 United States Code, Sections 16, 141, and 193. In the fall of 2012, your government will receive a formal invitation and instructions for how to participate in the GSS-I. Your government can provide a file of your address and/or geographic data to the Census Bureau at your convenience.

The Census Bureau estimates that it will take about five (5) hours to prepare and deliver your address and geographic data as part of the GSS-I, depending on the size of your jurisdiction and method of participation. This estimate includes the time needed to read the invitation and instruction materials, to extract your data, and to transmit that data to the Census Bureau via a process defined in the instruction materials. This burden estimate represents a single instance of participation in the GSS-I.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number for the GSS-I data collection is: Paperwork Project 0607-0795. This control number expires on April 30, 2015.

Please send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to:

Paperwork Project 0607-0795, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Room 3K138, Washington, DC 20233.

Or, you may e-mail comments to <paperwork@census.gov>; use "Paperwork Project 0607-0795" as the subject. Please include a copy of your message addressed to <geo.gss.initiative@census.gov>.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Census Bureau cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number is located in the upper right corner of each GSS-I form.

The Census Bureau encourages your participation in this initiative. If you have any questions regarding the GSS-I, please contact your Census Bureau Regional Office by telephone at [insert telephone number].

Sincerely.

Robert M. Groves  
Director