

RECOMMENDATIONS ON DES ESTIMATES PROCESS

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January 30, 2006

Evaluate The Reliability Of The Historical Data Series Used In The Composite Method

Prepare a memo to identify any anomalies in past data series, the reason for the anomalies and possible measures for correcting the anomalies. Any methods for making adjustments to the data would be documented along with the rationale for the method. Distribute the memo to members of the DES POPTAC methodology subcommittee and discuss it at a subcommittee meeting in early March 2006. Ensure that documentation for each of the data used in the Composite Method is complete, including definition, source, date reflected by data, date data collected and frequency of update.

Meet With State Agency Officials To Determine Whether Problems With Data Series Can Be Addressed.

Meet with the appropriate officials from the agencies that supply the information for the composite method to determine whether any changes can be made to the data series to clear up past problems or ensure future consistency. Summarize the results of the meetings, distribute to DES Methodology Subcommittee and discuss it at a meeting of the Methodology Subcommittee to be held in early March 2006.

Have More Frequent Meetings of the DES Methodology Subcommittee

Have more frequent meetings of the DES Methodology Subcommittee providing for more time to discuss and provide input on issues related to the preparation of annual estimates. People who are out of town can attend the meeting by audio conference.

Also establish working groups of experts on particular topics such as migration. These working groups could meet informally and give more time and attention to specific technical issues.

Provide Composite Method Data Inputs for Review and Comment Concurrent with HUM Inputs

Forward the time series to be used for the Composite Method to members of the DES POPTAC concurrently with the HUM inputs. If any data elements are not yet available, the time series for the data that are available would be provided and any updated data as soon as it became available.

Conduct An Analysis to Determine the Appropriate Attrition Rates for Residential Permits Issued

Conduct an analysis on a county by county basis to determine the appropriate attrition rates for residential permits issued. Document the methodology used and the assumptions made in a working paper and distribute it to members of the DES Methodology Subcommittee.