

P.S. 3916  
(45% of annual requirements up to 20 million)  
Extra Life & Shipper  
M.R. 858  
M.R. 859

#### Services

Janitorial/Custodial  
Naval Air Reserve  
Moffett Field, California  
Janitorial/Custodial  
Robert N.C. Nix, Sr. Federal Center  
9th & Market Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Switchboard Operation  
Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
2250 Leestown Road  
Lexington, Kentucky

This action does not affect current contracts awarded prior to the effective date of this addition or options that may be exercised under those contracts.

**Beverly L. Milkman,**

*Executive Director.*

[FR Doc. 98-577 Filed 1-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

#### COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

##### Procurement List; Proposed Addition and Deletions

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Proposed Addition to and Deletions from Procurement List.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List a service to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and to delete services previously furnished by such agencies.

**COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE:** February 9, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 310, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4302.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a) (2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed actions.

#### Addition

If the Committee approves the proposed addition, all entities of the

Federal Government (except as otherwise indicated) will be required to procure the service listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the service to the Government.

2. The action does not appear to have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the service.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the service to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the service proposed for addition to the Procurement List. Comments on this certification are invited. Commenters should identify the statement(s) underlying the certification on which they are providing additional information.

The following service has been proposed for addition to Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agency listed:

Janitorial/Custodial  
Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)  
Rome, New York  
NPA: The Arc, Onieda-Lewis Chapter, NYSARC, Utica, New York

#### Deletions

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities.

2. The action does not appear to have a severe economic impact on future contractors for the services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the services to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the services proposed for deletion from the Procurement List.

The following services have been proposed for deletion from the Procurement List:

Disposal Support Services  
Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO)  
Alameda, California  
Janitorial/Custodial  
Building 243 "A-G" Bay  
McClellan AFB, California  
Janitorial/Custodial  
Border Station  
Chateaugay, New York  
Microfilming of EEG Records  
Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
Buffalo, New York

**Beverly L. Milkman,**  
*Executive Director.*

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#### COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

##### Proposed Additions to the Procurement List; Correction

In the document appearing on page 63314, FR Doc. 97-31380, in the issue of November 28, 1997, in the first column, the service listed as Janitorial/Grounds Maintenance, West Los Angeles Federal Building and U.S. Post Office, 11000 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California should read: Janitorial/Grounds Maintenance for the following locations in Los Angeles, California: West Los Angeles Federal Building & U.S. Post Office, 11000 Wilshire Boulevard and the FBI Garage, 1260 Sepulveda Boulevard.

**Beverly L. Milkman,**  
*Executive Director.*

[FR Doc. 98-579 Filed 1-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### Bureau of the Census

[Docket No. 970408082-7273-02]

##### Block Group Program for Census 2000—Final Criteria

**AGENCY:** Bureau of the Census, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of final program.

**SUMMARY:** Block groups are geographic statistical divisions of census tracts, each of which consists of from one to nine block groups. A block group comprises a reasonably compact and contiguous cluster of census blocks. The

primary goal of the block group program is to provide data users with a geographic subunit of census tracts for which decennial census sample and 100 percent data are tabulated and disseminated.

The Census Bureau first used block groups in its data presentations from the 1970 census. It did this in lieu of providing data summaries for enumeration districts in areas that had census block numbers. As census blocks and block groups became increasingly popular with data users, the Census Bureau established them in many new areas. By 1990, there was complete census block and block group coverage for all of the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands of the United States).

Through the 1990 census, block groups were subunits either of census tracts or of statistically equivalent entities known as block numbering areas (BNAs). For areas where census tracts did not exist, the Census Bureau had established BNAs to control the numbering of census blocks within block groups. A county or statistically equivalent entity<sup>1</sup> could, therefore, have either census tracts or BNAs. For Census 2000, the Census Bureau will combine the similar programs into a single census tract program.

To determine boundaries and identification numbers for block groups, the Census Bureau offers a program to local participants, such as locally identified agencies and American Indian tribal officials and Alaska Native officials, whereby they can review and update the boundaries of the block groups delineated for the 1990 census and suggest revisions according to the criteria developed and promulgated by the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau will then review the resulting block groups for conformance to these criteria. The Census Bureau does not take into account or attempt to anticipate any nonstatistical uses that may be made of block groups, nor will the Census Bureau modify the definition of block groups to meet the requirements of any nonstatistical program.

The Census Bureau is now publishing final criteria for the delineation of block

groups for Census 2000. These criteria will apply to the 50 states, American Indian and Alaska Native areas, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. The Census Bureau may modify and, if necessary, reject proposals for block groups that do not meet the criteria established following this notice.

In addition to these final criteria, this notice includes a description of the changes from the criteria used for the 1990 census and a list of definitions of key terms used in the criteria.

**DATES:** The Block Group criteria for Census 2000 become effective February 9, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-0001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Joel Morrison, Chief, Geography Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-7400, telephone (301) 457-1132, or e-mail (j.morrison@geo.census.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The block group delineation criteria have evolved in response to decennial census practices and the preferences of program participants and data users. After each decennial census, the Census Bureau, in consultation with participants and data users, reviews and revises these criteria. Then, before the next decennial census, the Census Bureau offers state, tribal, and local officials an opportunity to correct, update, and otherwise improve the block group delineations.

In July and August 1995, the Census Bureau issued invitations to local and tribal groups and agencies to participate in the delineation of statistical geographic areas for Census 2000. These groups and agencies included regional planning agencies, councils of governments, county planning agencies, officials of federally recognized American Indian tribes, and officials of the 12 nonprofit Alaska Native Regional Corporations.

By early 1998, the Census Bureau will provide maps and detailed guidelines to program participants for the review and delineation of block groups for Census 2000.

#### Response to Comments

The Census Bureau issued a Notice of Proposed Program Revisions and Request for Comments in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 24077) on Friday, May 2, 1997. That notice solicited comments on the proposed criteria for delineating block groups for Census 2000. The Census Bureau received only one comment—from a county planning department requesting the continued use of housing unit estimates rather than population estimates as a basis for

proposing block groups. In response, the Census Bureau expressed its willingness to accept block group proposals based on housing unit estimates. The Census Bureau is maintaining its population-based criteria and will apply a standard figure (2.5 persons per household) to convert housing units to population estimates.

#### Executive Order 12866

This notice does not meet the criteria for a "significant regulatory action" as specified in E.O. 12866.

#### Regulatory Flexibility Act

Pursuant to the provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 605(b)), the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulation, Department of Commerce, certified to the Chief Counsel, Small Business Administration, that this notice will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. This notice sets forth the criteria for the delineation of block groups for Census 2000. The criteria will be used to provide geographic subunits of census tracts for the tabulation of census data. Thus, because the Census Bureau uses block groups to tabulate and disseminate statistical data from the decennial census, the delineation of block groups is solely for statistical purposes. It will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

#### Final Program Requirements

##### A. Criteria for Delineating Block Groups for Census 2000

The Census Bureau announces the following final criteria for use in delineating Census 2000 block groups:

##### 1. General Characteristics

- A block group must meet the population and boundary feature criteria and comprise a compact piece of territory.
- A census tract boundary always must be a block group boundary.
- Each census tract must contain a minimum of one block group and may have a maximum of nine block groups.
- Block groups must cover the entire land and inland water area of a census tract.
- A block group entirely within an American Indian reservation may extend across a state or county boundary for tabulations in the American Indian geographic hierarchy. For standard data tabulations, the portion of the block group in each state and county is treated as a separate block group.

<sup>1</sup> Includes parishes in Louisiana; boroughs and census areas in Alaska; independent cities in Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia; that portion of Yellowstone National Park in Montana; districts/islands in American Samoa and the main islands of the Virgin Islands of the United States; municipalities in the Northern Mariana Islands; municipios in Puerto Rico; the entire area constituting the District of Columbia; and the entire area constituting Guam. This notice will refer to all these entities collectively as "counties."

## 2. Identification

• A block group consists of all blocks within a census tract that have the same first digit and is identified using that same first digit. For example in 1990, block group 3 included all census blocks numbered in the 300s. For Census 2000, the Census Bureau will introduce a four-digit block numbering system, and block group 3 will include all census blocks numbered in the 3000s within a census tract.

• The range of acceptable block group numbers is 1 through 9. Block group numbers must always be unique within a census tract; that is, the same number cannot be repeated.

• The Census Bureau will assign a single "zero" block group to census tracts numbered "0000." (In counties that have coastal water, territorial sea, or Great Lakes waters, the Census Bureau recommends establishing a "0000" census tract to provide complete area coverage.)

## 3. Boundary Features

The Census Bureau recommends that block group boundaries follow visible and identifiable features; that is, visible, perennial natural and cultural features, such as roads; rivers; canals; railroads; above-ground, high-tension power lines; and so forth. This provision makes the location of boundaries less ambiguous and easier for data users to locate.

State and county boundaries are always block group boundaries. The Census Bureau also permits the use of other types of legal boundaries in some states and situations where the

boundaries of these governmental units tend to remain unchanged between censuses. The following features are acceptable as block group boundaries:

- American Indian reservation and trust land boundaries.
- All minor civil division (MCD) boundaries (generally towns or townships) in Connecticut, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- Those MCD boundaries not conjoint with the boundaries of incorporated places that themselves are MCDs (being either coextensive with or independent of MCDs) in Illinois (townships only, not election precincts), Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri (governmental townships only), Nebraska (townships only, not election precincts), North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

• Barrio, barrio-pueblo, and subbarrio boundaries in Puerto Rico, census subdistrict boundaries in the Virgin Islands of the United States, MCD-county and island boundaries in American Samoa, municipal district boundaries in the Northern Mariana Islands, and election district boundaries in Guam.

• All incorporated place boundaries in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

• Conjoint incorporated place boundaries in other states; that is, the boundary separating two different incorporated places.

• Alaska Native village statistical area and Alaska Native Regional Corporation boundaries, at the discretion of the Census Bureau, insofar as such boundaries are unambiguous for allocating living quarters as part of Census 2000 activities.

When the above types of features are not available for selection, the Census Bureau may, at its discretion, approve other nonstandard visible features, such as ridge lines, pipelines, intermittent streams, fence lines, and so forth. The Census Bureau also may accept, on a case-by-case basis, the boundaries of selected nonstandard and potentially nonvisible features, such as the boundaries of national parks and national forests, cemeteries, or other special land-use properties; the straight-line extensions of visible features; and other lines of sight.

## 4. Population Thresholds

The Census Bureau has established standard size criteria for most block groups in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands of the United States). (See Table 1.) Smaller optimum and minimum sizes are permissible for block groups located on American Indian reservations or comprising special places. (Special places are correctional institutions, military installations, college campuses, workers' dormitories, hospitals, nursing homes, and group homes.)

TABLE 1.—POPULATION THRESHOLDS FOR CENSUS 2000 BLOCK GROUPS

Area(s)	Optimum	Minimum	Maximum
United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas .....	1,500	600	3,000
American Indian reservations .....	1,000	300	3,000
Special place block group .....	None	300	None.

If a block group located on an American Indian reservation crosses a county boundary or a state boundary, the minimum population size criterion applies to the entire area of the block group, not to the individual portions that are in separate counties or states.

## 5. Final Approval of Block Groups

The Census Bureau reserves the right to approve all block group proposals for Census 2000. The Census Bureau will make an effort to reach agreement with local and tribal participants in the block group program, but cannot approve the use of block groups as submitted if they do not meet Census 2000 criteria. If necessary, the Census Bureau will revise

block group boundaries where they do not meet the boundary and population size requirements.

### *B. Changes to the Criteria for Census 2000*

Most provisions of the block group criteria remain unchanged from those used in conjunction with the 1990 census, with the few exceptions summarized below:

1. For 1990 and previous decennial censuses, the Census Bureau delineated the block groups in BNAs on the basis of the number of housing units rather than population. For Census 2000, the Census Bureau is merging the census tract and BNA programs to create a

single census tract program, and the size criteria for all block groups will be on the basis of population rather than the number of housing units.

2. For Census 2000, the Census Bureau is increasing the number of governmental units that have boundaries acceptable to use as block group boundaries. The added areas are: all MCDs in Indiana and selected MCDs in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; the MCD-county and island areas of American Samoa; and villages in New York.

3. The Census Bureau now allows officials of federally recognized

American Indian reservations to establish block groups that cross state or county boundaries. While the Census Bureau will publish data for each state-county-census tract-block group part, it also plans to provide summed data for all block groups that are located within a federally recognized American Indian reservation and that cross state or county boundaries.

#### Definitions of Key Terms

**Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC)**—A corporate entity established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1972, Public Law 92-203, as amended by Public Law 92-204, to conduct both the business and nonprofit affairs of Alaska Natives. Twelve ANRCs cover the entire State of Alaska except for the Annette Islands Reserve.

**Alaska Native village statistical area (ANVSA)**—A statistical entity containing the densely settled extent of an Alaska Native village that constitutes an association, band, clan, community, group, tribe, or village recognized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1972, Public Law 92-203, as amended by Public Law 92-204.

**American Indian reservation (AIR)**—A federally recognized American Indian entity with boundaries established by treaty, statute, and/or executive or court order and over which American Indians have governmental jurisdiction. Along with reservation, designations such as colonies, communities, pueblos, rancherias, and reserves apply to AIRs.

**Block numbering area (BNA)**—A small-area, statistical geographic division of a county or statistically equivalent area delineated in 1990 instead of and generally geographically equivalent to a census tract. For Census 2000, the Census Bureau is merging the BNA program with the census tract program and converting all BNAs to census tracts.

**Census block**—The smallest geographic entity for which the Census Bureau collects and tabulates decennial census information, bounded on all sides by visible and nonvisible features identified by the Census Bureau in computer files and on maps.

**Census tract**—A small, relatively permanent statistical geographic subdivision of a county or statistically equivalent area defined for the tabulation of data. For Census 2000, the Census Bureau is replacing BNAs with census tracts.

**Coastal water**—Water bodies between territorial seas and inland water, the encompassing headlands being greater than 1 mile apart and less than 24 miles apart.

**Conjoint**—A description of a boundary shared by two adjacent geographic areas.

**Contiguous**—A description of geographic areas that are adjacent to one another, sharing either a common boundary or point.

**Great Lakes waters**—Water area beyond one-mile-wide headland embayments located in any of the five Great Lakes: Erie, Huron, Michigan, Ontario, or Superior.

**Incorporated place**—A type of governmental unit, sanctioned by state law as a city, town (except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin), village, or borough (except in Alaska and New York), having legally prescribed limits, powers, and functions.

**Inland water**—Water bodies entirely surrounded by land or at the point where their opening to coastal waters, territorial seas, or the Great Lakes is less than one mile across.

**Minor civil division (MCD)**—The primary governmental or administrative division of a county in 28 states, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas having legal boundaries, names, and descriptions. MCDs represent many different types of legal entities with a wide variety of characteristics, powers, and functions depending on the state and type of MCD. In some states, some or all of the incorporated places also constitute MCDs.

**Nonvisible feature**—A map feature that is not visible on the ground, such as a city or county boundary through space, a property line, a short line-of-sight extension of a road, or a point-to-point line of sight.

**Special place**—A specific location requiring special enumeration procedures because the location includes people not in households, or the area includes special land use. Special places include facilities with resident population, such as correctional institutions, military installations, college campuses, workers' dormitories, hospitals, nursing homes, and group homes; and land-use areas such as national parks. A special place includes the entire facility, including nonresidential areas and staff housing units, as well as all group quarters population.

**Territorial seas**—Water bodies not included under the rules for inland water, coastal water, or Great Lakes waters (see above).

**Visible feature**—A map feature that one can see on the ground, such as a road, railroad track, above-ground transmission line, stream, shoreline, fence, sharply defined mountain ridge, or cliff. A nonstandard visible feature is

a feature that may not be clearly defined on the ground (such as a ridge), may be seasonal (such as an intermittent stream), or may be relatively impermanent (such as a fence). The Census Bureau generally requests verification that nonstandard features pose no problem in their location during field work.

Dated: November 25, 1997.

**Martha Farnsworth Riche,**

*Director, Bureau of the Census.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Bureau of the Census

[Docket No. 970501104-7271-02]

#### Census County Division (CCD) Program for Census 2000—Final Criteria

**AGENCY:** Bureau of the Census, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of final program.

**SUMMARY:** Census county divisions (CCDs) are geographic statistical entities established cooperatively by the Census Bureau and officials of state and local governments in 21 states where minor civil divisions (MCDs) either do not exist or are unsatisfactory for reporting decennial census data. The primary goal of the CCD program is to establish and maintain a set of subcounty units that have stable boundaries and recognizable names. A CCD usually represents one or more communities, trading centers, or, in some instances, major land uses. It usually consists of a single geographic piece that is relatively compact in shape. The geographic "building blocks" of CCDs are census tracts, and many CCDs are groupings of several contiguous census tracts.

Since the 1950s, the Census Bureau has worked with state and local officials to create subcounty areas for the collection, presentation, and analysis of census statistics in states where MCDs do not exist, are not well-known locally, or are subject to frequent change. By 1990, 21 states had shifted to CCDs: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Once a state has replaced its MCDs with CCDs, it usually keeps them throughout subsequent decennial censuses. For Census 2000, all of the above 21 states will retain their CCDs.