

**Governmental Units, and Administrative and  
Statistical Boundaries Theme  
Strategic Plan  
FY2025 - 2027**

Geospatial Data Act of 2018  
Section USC 43 Sec 2805(b)(3) Requirements

September 30, 2024



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## Introduction

This Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme Strategic Plan (henceforth Plan), developed in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, spans three years, FY 2025-2027. The Plan outlines a strategy to achieve progress toward meeting [Section 2805 of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018](#)<sup>1</sup> (GDA). The Plan derives its origin from Sec. 2805 (b)(3)(B) to “provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme.” The Plan is organized by goals, addressing major subsections of Sec. 2805, objectives supporting the goals, and anticipated actions to be taken over the lifecycle of the Plan to achieve progress.<sup>2</sup> In addition to meeting GDA requirements, these goals and objectives align with the [National Spatial Data Infrastructure \(NSDI\) Strategic Plan](#)<sup>3</sup> as required by Section 2805(b)(3)(C). A crosswalk of the GDA and the NSDI Strategic Plan can be found in **Appendix A** of this document. For each FY covered by the Plan, the lead covered agency (see Background below) will generate an annual performance report, as required by the GDA, to inform on progress in achieving the Plan.

## Background

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), henceforth Committee, is composed of both covered and non-covered agencies as defined by the GDA. For each National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) data theme (henceforth Theme), the Committee designates one or more covered agencies as lead covered agencies (LCA) for the Theme. As called for in the [OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance](#),<sup>4</sup> the lead covered agencies designate theme leads to oversee the management of the Theme. The lead covered agencies have taken a coordinated approach to addressing GDA section 2805.

Starting in late FY 2022 and continuing into FY 2023, lead covered agencies collaborated on a common approach to improving annual performance reporting.<sup>5</sup> The result is a Theme Strategic Plan template for use by all themes based on a common set of goals and objectives to meet the GDA requirements. This approach ensures the application of a common set of metrics and allows the FGDC Office of the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/43-usc-ch-46-geospatial-data-geospatial-data-act.pdf#page=8>

<sup>2</sup> Sec 2802(c)(A)(i) an evaluation of the progress of each lead covered agency in achieving the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of section 2805(b)(3) of this title; and (ii) a determination of whether, for each of subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of section 2805(b)(3) of this title, each lead covered agency meets expectations, has made progress toward expectations, or fails to meet expectations.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/legacy\\_drupal\\_files/omb/memoranda/2011/m11-03.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/legacy_drupal_files/omb/memoranda/2011/m11-03.pdf).

It should be noted that the revised Circular A-16 is currently in development for release by the Office of Management and Budget for use by the FGDC Community. Associated Technical Guidance may be developed by FGDC once the revised Circular is released.

<sup>5</sup> NSDI Strategic Plan Goal 1.3. Identify common approaches and tools to meet GDA and related planning and reporting requirements.

Sec 2805 (b)(3)(E)(ii)(I): (ii) submit to the Committee—

(I) a performance report, at least annually, that documents the activities relating to and implementation of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, including progress in achieving the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D).

Secretariat (FGDC OS) to provide a consistent summary of individual and collective progress made by all Themes in meeting GDA requirements. Depending on their complexity, Themes may expand beyond the common set of goals, objectives, and actions within the template. In subsequent years, within the lifecycle of the Plan, the Census Bureau for the Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme (henceforth Governmental Units Theme) will provide an annual report that includes status on identified actions and demonstrates progress made in achieving the Plan goals and objectives aligned to the GDA requirements.

As the lead covered agency for the Governmental Units Theme, the Census Bureau developed this Plan to detail the activities necessary to achieve a shared vision initially described in *Appendix E* of the 2010 revision of the *OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance* as one of the nine framework themes.

*“These data describe, by a consistent set of rules and semantic definitions, the official boundary of international, tribal, federal, state, local governments as reported/certified to the U.S. Census Bureau by responsible officials of each government for purposes of reporting the Nation's official statistics.”<sup>6</sup>*

The Governmental Units Theme was later endorsed by the FGDC Steering Committee in 2011 as one of sixteen (16) Themes.

*“Boundaries that delineate geographic areas for uses such governance and the general provision of services (e.g., States, American Indian reservations, counties, cities, town, etc.), administration and/or for a specific purpose (e.g., Congressional Districts, school districts, fire districts, Alaska Native Regional Corporations, etc.), and/or provision of statistical data (census tracts, census blocks, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, etc.). Boundaries for these various types of geographic areas are either defined through a documented legal description or through criteria and guidelines. Other boundaries may include international limits, those of federal land ownership, the extent of administrative regions for various federal agencies, as well as the jurisdictional offshore limits of U.S. sovereignty. Boundaries associated solely with natural resources and/or cultural entities are excluded from this theme and are included in the appropriate subject themes.”<sup>7</sup>*

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<sup>6</sup> “OMB Circular No. A-16 Revised,” *Office of Management and Budget*, August 19, 2002, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Circular-016.pdf> [Note: “Tribe” or “tribal” relates to recognized American Indian and Alaska Native entities].

<sup>7</sup> National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Data Themes list with theme descriptions and theme leads agencies. Endorsed by the Federal Geographic Data Committee Steering Committee August 19, 2011, Revised February 1, 2013. <https://www.fgdc.gov/initiatives/resources/2013-2-1-ngda-data-themes-fgdc-sc-revised.pdf>.

The Census Bureau initiated a stakeholder engagement process and received input from its international and federal agency partners (International Boundary Commission, International Boundary and Water Commission, Bureau of Land Management, Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Geological Survey) associated Working Groups such as the National Boundaries Group (NBG) and its subgroups (Tribal Boundaries Working Group, Federal Lands Working Group, and State Lands Working Group) that function as the primary coordinating bodies for the Governmental Units Theme. The NBG represents governmental and FGDC-recognized stakeholders in international, federal, tribal, state, county, and local governments, as well as private industry, academic, and other professional organizations that have a common interest in boundary issues that crosscut or are pertinent to multiple Themes.

The resulting FY 2025-2027 Plan offers a framework for maturing and enhancing the Governmental Units Theme in a way sensitive to technological, economic, and organizational constraints and opportunities. It updates the goals and objectives included in the *2017-2021 Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Strategic Plan* and aligns with the NSDI Strategic Plan 2021-2024 (November 2020) as outlined in **Appendix A** of this document.

The goals and objectives reflect the priorities for the Governmental Units Theme over the next three years (2025-2027). This general outline for the Plan specifies the content and organization necessary for the successful interchange of current geographic area boundary data.<sup>8</sup> This plan does not suggest a particular structure for the interchange of boundary data. Further, data producers and users may structure geographic area boundary data in any format for their internal use.

**Goal 1:** Administer the Theme

**Goal 2:** Provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme

**Goal 3:** Assess Metadata and Data Standards

Additionally, the plan documents the challenges and opportunities dataset managers foresee in the immediate future, including the steps that Census Bureau and its partners will take collectively to achieve their stated goals. The quality of the Theme hinges on efforts to improve the completeness, accuracy, and accessibility of spatial data for all current geographic areas and boundaries.

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<sup>8</sup> “Current geographic area boundary data” refers to the most current year or vintage for data maintained and disseminated by NGDA Dataset Managers.

## I. Goal: 2805(b)(3)(E) – Administer the Theme

The Committee designates National Geospatial Data Asset data themes.<sup>9</sup> The Committee also designates one or more covered agencies as the lead covered agencies for each Theme.<sup>10</sup> Themes may include NGDA datasets that are contributed by other covered agencies and non-covered agencies. The U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) is designated the lead for the Governmental Units Theme.

### I.A. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(i) – Point of Contact

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to designate a point of contact within the lead covered agency who shall be responsible for developing, maintaining, coordination relating to, and disseminating data using the GeoPlatform.

#### **GDA Reference**

*(b) Lead covered agencies*

*(3) Specific responsibilities*

*To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—*

*(E) as part of administering the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme—*

*(i) designate a point of contact within the lead covered agency who shall be responsible for developing, maintaining, coordination relating to, and disseminating data using the GeoPlatform;*

#### I.A.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(i) – Point of Contact (Primary)

The Census Bureau shall designate a point of contact (POC) who shall be responsible for developing, maintaining, coordination relating to, and disseminating data using the GeoPlatform. The POC will be updated and reported annually.

In addition to annual reporting, the Census Bureau shall inform the Committee of interim changes to the POC as necessary to maintain continuity.

#### I.A.ii. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(i) – Point of Contact (Alternate)

The primary POC shall designate alternate points of contact from the Census Bureau, Bureau of Land management (BLM), and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the roles of Dataset Manager and Metadata Manager who shall be responsible for maintaining, coordination relating to, and disseminating data using the GeoPlatform. Additional information about the POC(s) and their roles relating to the Theme are described in Goal II and listed in **Appendix D: Concise list of Governmental Units Theme Roles and Responsibilities**.

In addition to annual reporting, the Census Bureau's primary POC shall inform the Committee of interim changes to the alternate POCs as necessary to maintain continuity.

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<sup>9</sup> Sec 2805(a) the term "National Geospatial Data Asset data theme" is defined as the National Geospatial Data Asset core geospatial datasets (including electronic records and coordinates) relating to a topic or subject designated under section 2805 of this title.

<sup>10</sup> Sec 2805(b)(1) For each National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the Committee shall designate one or more covered agencies as the lead covered agencies for the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme.

## I.B. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(ii)(I) – Annual Reporting

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to submit a performance report, at least annually, that documents the activities relating to and implementation of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme.

### **GDA Reference**

*(b) Lead covered agencies*

*(3) Specific responsibilities*

*To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—*

*(E) as part of administering the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme—*

*(ii) submit to the Committee—*

*(I) a performance report, at least annually, that documents the activities relating to and implementation of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, including progress in achieving the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D); and*

### I.B.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(ii)(I) – Annual Reporting

The Census Bureau shall submit a performance report annually, that documents the activities relating to and implementation of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, including progress in achieving the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D).

## I.C. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(ii)(II) – Annual Report Comments

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to submit comments to the Committee about the annual performance summary, as appropriate.

### **GDA Reference**

*(b) Lead covered agencies*

*(3) Specific responsibilities*

*To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—*

*(E) as part of administering the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme—*

*(ii) submit to the Committee—*

*(II) comments, as appropriate, regarding the summary and evaluation of the performance report provided by the Committee under section 2802(c)(12) of this title;*

### I.C.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(ii)(II) – Annual Report Comments

The Census Bureau shall submit comments, as appropriate, regarding the summary and evaluation of the performance report provided by the FGDC OS under section 2802(c)(12).

### I.C.ii. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(ii)(II) – Annual Report Review

The Executive Champion (Census Bureau/Geography Division Chief), Theme Lead, and alternate POCs will review the annual performance report provided by the FGDC OS under section 2802(c)(12). For a list and description of these roles, see **Appendix D**. Concise List of Governmental Units Theme Roles and Responsibilities.

## II. Goal: 2805(b)(3)(B) – Provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme

The Governmental Units Theme Lead developed this Plan in coordination with the agencies that manage and contribute to NGDA datasets within the Theme. Over the next three years, the Theme Lead(s) shall facilitate the implementation of this Plan through annual performance reporting. Each of the following goals and objectives within this Plan support the nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme in direct correlation with the GDA.

### II.A. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(i) – Partnerships

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to provide leadership and facilitate a plan to develop partnership programs with Indian Tribes, states, institutions of higher education, private sector entities, other federal agencies, and local governments.

#### **GDA Reference**

*(b) Lead covered agencies*

*(3) Specific responsibilities*

*To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—*

*(B) provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, which shall—*

*(i) include developing partnership programs with States, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, private sector entities, other Federal agencies, and local governments;*

#### II.A.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(i) – Partnerships (Census Bureau Partnership Programs)

The Census Bureau shall provide leadership and facilitate developing partnership programs to support nationwide population of the Theme to produce legal, administrative, and statistical boundaries. Unless otherwise noted in other actions listed below, the Census Bureau shall maintain and update all legal, administrative, and statistical boundary data as needed according to program schedules. Program schedules pertaining to Census Bureau datasets are detailed in **Appendix B**—Census Bureau Partnership Program Timeline with Program Descriptions.

**Note:** The NGDA datasets for legal, administrative, and statistical boundaries produced by the Census Bureau’s partnership programs are described below and listed in **Appendix C**—Governmental Units NGDA Datasets and Associated Partnership Programs and Agencies.

The following partnership programs and FY25-FY27 actions with tribal, state, local, private sector, academia, non-profit or other partners are summarized below and documented on Census.gov (e.g., training materials, research activities, or project plans) that support the Governmental Units Theme and the data within the Theme:

- **The Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)** provides tribal, state, and general-purpose local governments an opportunity to review the Census Bureau’s legal boundary data to ensure the



Census Bureau has the correct boundary, name, and status information and make necessary updates. BAS also allows participants to review and provide updates to census designated places and linear features. Maintaining correct boundaries helps ensure that the Census Bureau assigns the appropriate housing and population counts to each government. Title 13, Section 6, United States Code authorizes this survey.

Each year, all active, functioning legal governments are surveyed to provide updates. This includes almost 40,000 governments across the United States and its territories.

- **The School District Review Program (SDRP)** enables state officials to review, on an annual basis, the U.S. Census Bureau's school district information. State officials will provide the Census Bureau with updates and corrections to the Federal School District Local Education Agency (SDLEA) Codes, school district boundaries, names, grade ranges, and levels for which each school district is financially responsible.
- Required by law, the **Redistricting Data Program** provides states the opportunity to specify the small geographic areas for which they wish to receive decennial population totals for the purpose of reapportionment and redistricting.

Under the provisions of Title 13, Section 141(c) of the United States Code (U.S.C.), the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) is required to provide the “officers or public bodies having initial responsibility for the legislative apportionment or districting of each state ...” with the opportunity to specify geographic areas (e.g., blocks, voting districts) for which they wish to receive decennial census population counts for the purpose of reapportionment or redistricting. By April 1 of the year following the decennial census, the Secretary is required to furnish the state officials or their designees with population counts for American Indian areas, counties, cities, census blocks, and state-specified congressional, legislative, and voting districts.

Other FY25-FY27 actions for the RDP Program include:

- **Solicitation of Non-Partisan Liaisons (2025):** Governors and legislative leadership of all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will be asked to provide a non-partisan liaison who will create and submit geographic updates and perform verification as a part of the Redistricting Data Program.
- **Collection of Post-2020 Census Congressional and State Legislative District Plans (2025-2026):** The Census Bureau collaborates with the designated non-partisan liaisons to collect any newly enacted congressional or state legislative districts plans since the collection of the 119th Congressional and 2024 State Legislative Districts plans.
- **Block Boundary Suggestion Project (2026-2027):** The Census Bureau collaborates with the designated non-partisan liaisons to collect and verify suggestions for the 2030 Census tabulation blocks. Liaisons are also able to submit suggested legal boundary updates as well as updates to other geographic areas and features. These actions allow for the construction of the small area geography needed for legislative redistricting. The Block Boundary Suggestion Project (BBSP) is conducted in two parts, an initial delineation, from January through May 2026, and a verification phase from January through May 2027 to ensure the suggested updates were accurately applied. The verification phase also has the option for liaisons to make additional block boundary suggestions.

The **Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)** is a once a decade voluntary geographic partnership program with participation from over 1,000 governments. This program provides an opportunity for designated participants to review and suggest changes to the boundaries and names for statistical areas using specific criteria and guidelines. The Census Bureau uses these smaller, statistical areas to tabulate and disseminate data for the Decennial Census, the annual American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, the Economic Census, and other censuses and surveys.

II.A.ii. [Action\(s\) to Meet Objective: 2805\(b\)\(3\)\(B\)\(i\) – Partnerships \(Bureau of Land Management and Department of Housing and Urban Development Partnership Programs\)](#)

The **BLM** and **HUD** shall provide leadership and facilitate developing partnership programs to support nationwide population of the Governmental Units Theme to produce administrative boundaries. Unless otherwise noted in other actions listed below, these agencies shall maintain and update all administrative boundary data as needed according to program schedules.

**Note:** The NGDA datasets for legal and administrative, and statistical boundaries produced by partnerships programs within the BLM and HUD partnership programs are described below and listed in **Appendix C—Governmental Units NGDA Datasets and Associated Partnership Programs and Agencies**.

- **NGDAID 186—National Administrative Unit Boundary Polygons and Office Points.** The BLM dataset of National Administrative Unit Boundary Polygons and Office Points depicts geographic areas where BLM has distinct jurisdictional responsibility for land and resource management activities occurring on public lands. The NGDA feature level dataset includes both BLM administrative land areas and office locations for approximately 10,000 employees in state, district, and field offices throughout the continental U.S. and Alaska. The BLM manages 245 million acres of public lands through collaborations and partnerships with national organizations, tribe, community organizations, educational institutions, youth corps organizations, businesses, and other government agencies. This infrastructure supports ongoing partnerships to improve management, stewardship, and public enjoyment of these public lands.
- **NGDAID 81—HUD Entitlement Grantee Jurisdiction.** The HUD dataset of Entitlement Grantee Jurisdiction (**NGDAID 81**) denotes the boundaries of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Communities and State Administered Non-Entitlement CDBG grantees. The HUD’s geospatial datasets are derived through acquisition of information provided by stewards both within HUD’s program areas and outside the federal government and published based on the needs of the program areas. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a federal block grant distributed to states and local governments for housing, economic development, and public improvement efforts that serve low-, and moderate-income communities. HUD’s research activities for this program relies upon residential and commercial vacancy data provided by the United States Postal Service (USPS), as well as custom extracts of the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate data. HUD also receives data provided by state governments, local, state, and regional housing authorities, property owners, and state and local entitlement communities.

II.A.iii. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(i) – Partnerships (Other Contributing International and Federal Agencies)

The Census Bureau shall integrate international and The National Map (TNM) boundary data from the **International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC)**, the **International Boundary Commission (IBC)**, and **USGS** through an annual reciprocal data exchange to support the nationwide population of the Governmental Units Theme NGDA datasets. Unless otherwise noted in other actions listed below, this boundary data shall be integrated to the MAF/TIGER System through formal and/or informal agreements adhering to Census Bureau’s geospatial program schedules.

- The **IBWC** is administered by the U.S. Department of State and the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Relations. Through an informal agreement, yearly data exchanges are provided to the Census Bureau by the Engineering Commissioner for the U.S. Section of the IBWC (in conjunction with the Commissioner for the Mexico Section of the IBWC) to update the international boundary between the United States and Mexico. The IBWC’s authoritative data is integrated within the Census Bureau’s MAF/TIGER System and used for data dissemination purposes only.

Other FY 25-FY27 actions for the IBWC and Census Bureau’s yearly data exchange to represent the U.S. and Mexico international boundary within the NGDAID 204 dataset include:

- Facilitate annual collaboration on geospatial updates to the U.S. and Mexico international boundary within the Census Bureau’s MAF/TIGER System and provide a link to the TIGER/Line Shapefile of *U.S. International Boundaries (national)* on Census.gov.
- Conduct the Census Bureau’s annual metadata harvest of the new NGDAID 204 entitled *U.S. International Boundaries (national)* to Data.gov and the GeoPlatform.

- The **IBC** is an independent treaty organization administered by Commissioners from the U.S. and Canada. Through an informal agreement, yearly data exchanges are provided to the Census Bureau by the U.S. Commissioner of the IBC (in conjunction with the Canadian Commissioner of the IBC) to update the international boundary between the United States and Canada. The IBC’s authoritative data is integrated within the Census Bureau’s MAF/TIGER System and used for data dissemination purposes only.

Other FY 25-FY27 actions for the IBC and Census Bureau’s yearly data exchange to represent the U.S. and Canada international boundary within the NGDAID 204 dataset include:

- Facilitate annual collaboration on geospatial updates to the U.S. and Canada international boundary within the Census Bureau’s MAF/TIGER System and provide a link to the TIGER/Line Shapefile of *U.S. International Boundaries (national)* on Census.gov.
- Conduct the Census Bureau’s annual metadata harvest of the new NGDAID 204 entitled *U.S. International Boundaries (national)* to Data.gov and the GeoPlatform.

- Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the **USGS** and the Census Bureau, both parties shall facilitate the reciprocal exchange of the Census Bureau’s roads and boundary data within the Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Reference (TIGER) System for

use by USGS in The National Map, as well as the exchange of geographic entity names and codes.

Other FY25-FY27 actions for USGS and the Census Bureau reciprocal data and knowledge exchange in a mutually agreed upon yearly schedule include:

- Provide TIGER boundary data to the USGS for use in the National Map and the U.S. topographic map series (US Topo).
- Add and update names and codes for Civil and Census entities and for populated places.
- Report discovered boundary discrepancies for review and verification.
- Facilitate technical exchanges on mutually beneficial technology, data, and standards.

## II.B. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(ii) and 2805(b)(3)(D) – User Needs

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to provide leadership and facilitate a plan to meet the needs of users of geospatial data including a process to, as necessary, collect and analyze information from users of NGDA within the Theme and incorporate the needs of those users into strategies related to the NGDA data theme.

### GDA References

**(b)** *Lead covered agencies*

**(3)** *Specific responsibilities*

*To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—*

**(B)** *provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, which shall—*

**(ii)** *meet the needs of users of geospatial data;*

AND

**(b)(3)(D)** *as necessary, collect and analyze information from users of geospatial data within the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme regarding the needs of the users for geospatial data and incorporate the needs of users in strategies relating to the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme;*

### II.B.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(ii) and 2805(b)(3)(D) – User Needs (Census Bureau’s Stakeholders)

The Census Bureau shall support the Theme through the implementation of the Geographic Support Program (GSP) Strategic Plan – Fiscal Year 2022 Through Fiscal Year 2026 as it relates to user needs (see Goal 2: Continuous Commitment to Innovation).

*“The GSP will encourage reasonable risk-taking and innovation along with continuous assessment and improvement of applications and systems, processes, geographic partnership programs and geospatial data offerings to meet the needs of our stakeholders.”<sup>11</sup>*

Other FY25-FY27 actions to address user needs for Census Bureau’s stakeholders include:

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<sup>11</sup> Census Bureau. Geographic Support Program: Strategic Plan—Fiscal Year 2022 Through Fiscal Year 2026. August 2022. [https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/gsp/Geographic\\_Support\\_Program\\_Strategic\\_PlanFY22-26.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/gsp/Geographic_Support_Program_Strategic_PlanFY22-26.pdf)

- Collect and incorporate user needs in strategies related to the Governmental Units Theme through ongoing interactions with the stakeholder community in tribal, federal, state, and general-purpose local governments, international organizations, academia, and non-profit organizations.
- Engage with internal and external data users through listening tours on the need for new data opportunities for a variety of applications, product deliveries, training, and alternate geographies for summary products.

#### II.B.ii. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(ii) and 2805(b)(3)(D) – User Needs (FGDC Subcommittees and Working Groups)

The Census Bureau shall perform theme-specific actions within the FGDC subcommittees and working groups to collect and analyze user needs associated with the Governmental Units Theme and NGDA datasets, namely through the activities of the National Boundaries Group (NBG) and its working groups. Other FY25-FY27 activities to support these actions include:

Other FY25-FY27 actions to address user needs within FGDC Subcommittees and Working Groups include:

- Co-lead the NBG with the USGS to collect and analyze stakeholder needs and improve/expand nationally consistent boundaries using the same geographic base and to ensure that federal boundary sources are consistent, accurate, and integrated.
- Co-lead the Tribal Boundaries Working Group (TBWG) with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to collect and analyze user needs for geospatial data pertaining to tribal area boundaries.
- Participate in the Federal Lands Working Group (FLWG) and State Lands Working Group (SLWG) led by USGS to collect and analyze user needs for geospatial data for federal and state conservation areas for the Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US), an NGDA dataset managed by the Cadastral Theme.

#### II.C. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(iii) – Address Human and Financial Resource Needs

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to provide leadership and facilitate a plan to address human and financial resource needs for nationwide population of the NGDA data theme.

##### **GDA Reference**

*(b) Lead covered agencies*

*(3) Specific responsibilities*

*To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—*

*(B) provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, which shall—*

*(iii) address human and financial resource needs;*

II.C.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(iii) – Address human and financial needs of the Lead Covered Agency to support the Theme (Census Bureau)

The Census Bureau shall provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the NGDA data theme, which addresses the human and financial resource needs to support the Governmental Units Theme.

**Note:** Other agencies that manage datasets in this Governmental Units Theme report resource needs through their agency's budget process.

Other FY25-FY27 actions to facilitate how the development of a plan that addresses human and financial needs to support the Theme include:

- Provide a general description of staff and resourcing levels necessary to support the Governmental Units Theme management, reporting, products, and online shared services environments (SSEs) that can include the roles and responsibilities in **Appendix D: Concise list of Governmental Units Theme Roles and Responsibilities**.
- Collaborate with other Lead Covered Agencies to address human and financial resource needs to support the Theme (**see Appendix E: Human and Financial Resources Needs to support the Governmental Units Theme**).

II.D. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(iii) – Publish Maps or Comparable Graphics Online

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to publish maps or comparable graphics online showing the extent and status of NGDA data within the Theme.

**GDA Reference**

**(b)** *Lead covered agencies*

**(3)** *Specific responsibilities*

*To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—*

**(E)** *as part of administering the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme—*

**(iii)** *publish maps or comparable graphics online (in accordance with the mapping conventions specified by the Committee) showing the extent and status of the National Geospatial Data Asset data themes for which the covered agency is a lead covered agency;*

II.D.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(iii) – Publish Maps or Comparable Graphics Online

The Census Bureau shall provide a descriptive metadata inventory of NGDA datasets for the Governmental Units Theme and access to published maps and graphics representing these datasets on Census.gov, Data.gov and the GeoPlatform.

Other FY25-FY27 actions to publish maps or Comparable Graphics online include:

- Publish Census Bureau’s metadata on the Official NGDA List Endorsed by FGDC on the GeoPlatform’s [NGDA Portfolio Community page](#) with current links to TIGER/line Shapefile downloads, TIGERweb, WMS, and REST services within the NGDA Portfolio.

- Develop Story maps, web applications, and other interactive map resources featuring Census Bureau’s NGDA datasets on the Governmental Units Theme Community Page hub site.

II.D.ii. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(iii) – Increase efficiency through collaboration with other geospatial data platforms (federal and commercial) featuring Governmental Units Theme NGDA datasets

The Theme shall collaborate with other Governmental platforms and map viewers featuring NGDA datasets to streamline the provision of data to these platforms, as recommended by the FGDC Examples include the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation Level Data (HIFLD) Open portal, the National Atlas, the PAD-US, and the National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD).

II.E. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(iv) – Provide Access to NGDA Through the GeoPlatform

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to encourage Theme data and metadata sources to share their data via the GeoPlatform.

**GDA Reference**

*(b) Lead covered agencies*

*(3) Specific responsibilities*

*To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—*

*(E) as part of administering the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme—*

*(iv) encourage individuals and entities that are a source of geospatial data or metadata for geospatial data for the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme to provide access to such data through the GeoPlatform;*

II.E.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(iv) – Provide Access to NGDA Through the GeoPlatform (Census Bureau)

The Theme shall demonstrate how the Census Bureau is a primary source for the geospatial data and metadata related to 30 NGDA datasets in the Theme and provides access to that data and metadata through the yearly metadata harvests to Data.gov and the GeoPlatform using FAIR principles.

Other FY25-FY27 actions for the Census Bureau to provide access to NGDA through the GeoPlatform include:

- Conduct a successful annual metadata harvest to Data.gov for all existing and newly approved NGDA datasets applying best practices recommended by the FGDC, Chief Data Officers Council, and the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology through the FAIRness Project.
- Increase efficiencies of the annual metadata harvests of NGDA datasets on Data.gov and the GeoPlatform by integrating the DCAT 3.0 U.S. Profile into the Census Bureau metadata catalog workflow, when additional guidance becomes available.

II.E.ii. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(iv) – Provide Access to NGDA Through the GeoPlatform (BLM, HUD)

The Theme shall describe how other Federal agencies that are a source of geospatial data and metadata related to the Theme provide access to that data and metadata through the yearly metadata harvests to Data.gov and the GeoPlatform using FAIR principles.

Other FY25-FY27 actions for BLM and HUD to provide access to NGDA through the GeoPlatform include:

- Provide new information and FGDC guidance on best practices for the annual metadata harvest of NGDA datasets originating from HUD or BLM to Data.gov and GeoPlatform and assimilate recommendations by the FGDC, Chief Data Officers Council, and the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology through the FAIRness Project.
- Provide information and FGDC guidance on the adoption of the DCAT 3.0 U.S. Profile when this is available.

## II.F. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(v) – Coordinate with the GeoPlatform

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to coordinate with the GeoPlatform as part of administering the NGDA data theme.

### **GDA Reference**

*(b) Lead covered agencies*

*(3) Specific responsibilities*

*To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—*

*(E) as part of administering the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme—*

*(v) coordinate with the GeoPlatform;*

### II.F.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(v) – Coordinate with the GeoPlatform

The Theme shall coordinate with the GeoPlatform to transition all metadata for Governmental Units NGDA datasets and interactive map resources to the new Governmental Units Theme Community hub site on the GeoPlatform.

Other FY25-FY27 actions to coordinate with the GeoPlatform include:

- Participate as Site Managers and Dataset Managers in GeoPlatform briefings, seminars, and webinars to continue to modernize these hub sites, utilize new functionalities, and update technical guidance where necessary.
- Maintain the following online resources to improve users' experiences to find, access, and publish federal data using best practices:
  - The Governmental Units Theme NGDA Portfolio with NGDA datasets listed by NGDAID, NGDA Title, Data.gov link, GeoPlatform.gov link, Department and Agency.
  - Featured NGDA and NGDA Applications (e.g., web map applications and story maps).
  - Contributor Data and Applications (e.g., applications derived from Census Bureau NGDA datasets).
  - Updated content on Subcommittees and Working Groups, Standards in Use, FGDC Lead Covered Agency Theme Annual Reports, and the Governmental Units Theme Strategic Plan.



## II.F.ii. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(v) – Improve the User Experience with the GeoPlatform

The Theme shall improve the user experience with the GeoPlatform through the development of new Theme hub site content and improved access to NGDA datasets on the GeoPlatform.

Other FY25-FY27 actions to improve the user experience with the GeoPlatform include:

- Diversify the user experience with new Theme hub site content and interactive maps on the GeoPlatform.
- Coordinate with the NGDA Team ([NGDATeam@fgdc.gov](mailto:NGDATeam@fgdc.gov)) to develop successful metadata harvesting workflows and reduce the average frequency of 404 Errors relating to Governmental Units NGDA datasets on the GeoPlatform.
- Coordinate with the GeoPlatform Team ([servicedesk@geoplatform.gov](mailto:servicedesk@geoplatform.gov)) to reduce the monthly/yearly number of service tickets related to accessibility (i.e., FAIR<sup>12</sup>) failures for Governmental Units NGDA datasets on the GeoPlatform.

## II.G. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(vi) – Publish Proven Geospatial Practices

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to identify and publish proven practices for the use and application of geospatial data of the LCA as part of administering the NGDA data theme.

### **GDA Reference**

**(b)** *Lead covered agencies*

**(3)** *Specific responsibilities*

*To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—*

**(E)** *as part of administering the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme—*

**(vi)** *identify and publish proven practices for the use and application of geospatial data of the lead covered agency.*

## II.G.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(vi) – Publish Proven Geospatial Practices (Census Bureau)

The Census Bureau shall document how proven practices (including instructions and how to manuals) for the use and application of the Theme’s geospatial data are published on Census.gov.

Other FY25-FY27 actions for the Census Bureau to publish proven geospatial practices include:

- Publish existing and new “how-to” manuals and respondent guides associated with Census Bureau’s NGDA datasets and partnership programs to Census.gov.
- Continue to publish documents on proven geospatial practices on the Census.gov website. These documents can include guidance, criteria, and updates to Census programs published as Federal Register Notices (FRNs), Respondent Guides, Feature Data Submission Guidelines, data

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<sup>12</sup> About GeoPlatform. “GeoPlatform.gov, operating under the authority of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, established its primary role to make federal geospatial data assets more Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable with special emphasis as the authorized source for all the official National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDAs) across 18 Data themes as guided by the U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC).” <https://www.geoplatform.gov/about>

tools, fact sheets, and videos currently available for participants of the Census Bureau's partnership programs.

- Maintain updated links to documents, manuals, guidelines, training videos, and speakers' series on proven geospatial practices available on partnership program web pages for BAS, PSAP, SDRP, and RDP on Census.gov.

#### II.G.ii. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(vi) – Improve partnership software and tools for geospatial program participants

The Census Bureau shall provide specialized training activities within partnership programs, tools and software, interagency agreements available on Census.gov, and participation in outside working groups to establish proven geospatial practices.

Continued improvements to the BAS Partnership Toolbox and the Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) application enables both GIS and non-GIS users to provide geospatial updates using their own GIS or through a web interface. GUPS is a customized stand-alone and installable GIS developed in QGIS, an open-source geographic information system. GUPS is a free, customized GIS application provided by the Census Bureau. It is offered as standalone and online applications. The standalone GUPS allows eligible governments to manually create boundary updates and export standardized files for submission. The web application allows eligible governments to manually create boundary updates or import local boundary data to automate the creation of boundary updates and export standardized files for submission.

#### II.G.iii. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(vi) – Geography Division Partner Portal (GDPP)

Census Bureau shall develop a web-based GDPP that government partners can access via a secure login on census.gov. With its release, Census Bureau will enable partners to view and provide contact updates, submit program data, receive data products, communicate with Census Bureau staff regarding their community, and view historical program participation status for their government—all without requiring licensed commercial software and via a centralized web-based portal.

### III. Goal: 2805(b)(3)(A), (b)(3)(B)(iv) – Assess Metadata and Data Standards

To maximize the utility of the Theme, the GDA requires lead covered agencies to identify needs related to the following three items: data standards for geospatial data within the NGDA data theme, metadata standards for geospatial data within the NGDA data theme, and access to NGDA data and metadata through the GeoPlatform.

#### III.A. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(iv) – Metadata Standards

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to identify needs related to standards, metadata for geospatial data within the NGDA data theme, and the GeoPlatform to ensure that the NGDA are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR).

##### GDA Reference

*(b) Lead covered agencies*

*(3) Specific responsibilities*

*To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—*

*(B) provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, which shall—*

*(iv) identify needs relating to standards, metadata for geospatial data within the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, and the GeoPlatform;*

The Committee published the *FGDC Technical Guidance: Data.gov and The GeoPlatform Metadata Recommendations - including Guidelines for National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDA)* to recommend best practices for meeting GDA and other federal policy requirements. The document outlines best practices for creating geospatial metadata and specifies metadata content recommendations which support the discovery of NGDA datasets within Data.gov and the GeoPlatform. This document, along with related metadata examples, is published on <https://www.fgdc.gov/technical-guidance>.

#### III.A.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(iv) – Metadata Standards

The Theme shall document the use of metadata standards for FGDC endorsement and how the Theme provides leadership and facilitates the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the NGDA data theme to identify needs related to metadata standards and the GeoPlatform.

Other FY25-27 actions to document the Theme’s use of metadata standards for FGDC endorsement include:

- Update the current inventory of metadata standards in use by the Census Bureau, HUD, and BLM on the Governmental Units Theme Community hub site from ISO, OGC, and FGDC, and maintain the annual update of the NBSI (see **Appendix F: Standards in Use by the Governmental Units Theme NGDA Datasets**).

- Participate in a leadership role in the FGDC’s interagency task teams, and DOC’s internal standards and/or advisory group’s business activities to establish a workflow for the FGDC’s endorsement of metadata standards.
- Establish metadata standards expertise within the DOC and the FGDC NGDA Theme Community.
- Participate in the FGDC Standards Working Groups when applicable.

### III.A.ii. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(iv) – Adopt revisions to FGDC Technical Guidance Documents

The Census Bureau, BLM, and HUD shall provide feedback on any updates of the *FGDC Technical Guidance: Data.gov and The GeoPlatform Metadata Recommendations - including Guidelines for National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDA)* document for metadata to incorporate recommendations from the FAIRness Project.

Other FY25-27 actions to document the Theme’s use of metadata standards for FGDC endorsement include:

- Adopt FAIR principles and changes to the yearly metadata harvesting process as recommended by the FGDC, Chief Data Officers Council, and the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (GeoPlatform benchmarks described earlier in II.E above).
- Document transition to new metadata standards within agencies to follow new recommendations.

### III.A.iii. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(iv) – Implement FGDC endorsed metadata standards or voluntary consensus standards consistent with OMB Circular A-119

The Census Bureau, BLM, and HUD shall document compliance to FGDC endorsed metadata standards in annual GDA reporting, National Baseline Standards Inventory (NBSI), and internal agency reporting.

Other FY25-FY27 actions to implement FGDC endorsed metadata standards or voluntary consensus standards consistent with OMB Circular A-119 include:

- Document the transition to metadata production workflows to comply with ISO 19115-1, ISO 19115-3 metadata standards in an agency roadmap.
- Adopt DCAT 3.0 U.S. Profile for compliance to FAIR Principles following FGDC recommendation, when additional guidance is provided.
- Follow the prescribed workflow to propose, adopt, and implement metadata standards consistent with FGDC recommendations and OMB Circular A-119.
- Renew licensed subscriptions as necessary for metadata standards between agencies and the licensing body (e.g., American National Standards Institute (ANSI)).
- Maintain the Standards Connect Portal with licensed ISO metadata standards for enterprise use (Census Bureau only).
- Submit annual report to the National Institute of Standards and Technology to summarize agency activities undertaken to carry out the provisions of OMB A-119 to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (Census Bureau only).

### III.B. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(A)(i); (ii); (iii) – Data Standards

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to develop a plan to originate and implement needed standards consistent with relevant community and international practices in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A–119, or any successor thereto.

#### **GDA Reference**

*(b) Lead covered agencies*

*(3) Specific responsibilities*

*To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—*

*(A) provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of geospatial data standards for the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, with a particular emphasis on a data content standard for the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, including by—*

*(i) assessing existing standards;*

*(ii) identifying anticipated or needed data standards; and*

*(iii) developing a plan to originate and implement needed standards with relevant community and international practices—*

#### **NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory**

In 2021, the lead covered agencies participated in an FGDC-conducted NGDA standards inventory. This inventory was the initial action to identify the standards currently in use, or that needed to be removed or replaced, in the Committee’s list of previously endorsed standards. The inventory will be used to inform the changes required in the FGDC-approved standards list once the Committee implements a process to “establish and maintain geospatial data standards” in accordance with the GDA. The standards inventory results and background information are available on the GeoPlatform NGDA Portfolio [Standards](#)<sup>13</sup> page.

### III.B.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(A)(i); (ii); (iii) – Data Content

The Census Bureau, BLM, and HUD shall document the Theme’s use of data content and data quality standards for FGDC endorsement and how the Theme provides leadership and facilitates the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the NGDA data theme to identify needs related to data standards and the GeoPlatform.

Other FY25-27 actions to document the Theme’s use of data content and data quality standards for FGDC endorsement include:

- Update the current inventory of data content and data quality standards in use by the Census Bureau, HUD, and BLM on the Governmental Units Theme Community hub site from ISO, OGC, and FGDC, and maintain the annual update of the National Baseline Standards Inventory (NBSI) (**see Appendix F: Standards in Use by the Governmental Units Theme NGDA Datasets**).
- Participate in a leadership role in the FGDC’s interagency task teams, and individual agency’s internal standards and/or advisory group’s business activities to establish a workflow for the FGDC’s endorsement of metadata standards.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://ngda-portfolio-community-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/pages/standards>

- Establish data content and data quality standards expertise within the DOC, DOI, HUD, and FGDC NGDA Theme Community.
- Participate in the FGDC Standards Working Groups when applicable.

III.B.ii. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(A)(i); (ii); (iii) – Update FGDC Data Content and Data Quality Standards in Use

The Theme shall review and update the following FGDC standards:

- Geographic Information Framework Data Content Standard, Part 5: Governmental unit and other geographic area boundaries, FGDC-STD-014.5-2008.
- Geospatial Positioning Accuracy Standards, Part 3: National Standard for Spatial Data Accuracy FGDC-STD-007.3-1998.

III.B.iii. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(A)(i); (ii); (iii) – Implement FGDC endorsed data content and data quality standards or voluntary consensus standards consistent with OMB Circular A-119

The Census Bureau, BLM, and HUD shall document compliance to FGDC endorsed data content and data quality standards in annual GDA reporting, NBSI, and internal agency reporting.

Other FY25-FY27 actions to implement FGDC endorsed data content and data quality standards or voluntary consensus standards consistent with OMB Circular A-119 include:

- Follow the prescribed workflow to propose, adopt, and sunset data content and data quality standards consistent with FGDC recommendations and OMB Circular A-119.
- Renew licensed subscriptions as necessary for data content and data quality standards between agencies and the licensing body (e.g., American National Standards Institute (ANSI)).
- Maintain the Standards Connect Portal with licensed ISO data content and data quality standards for enterprise use (Census Bureau only).
- Submit annual report to the National Institute of Standards and Technology to summarize agency activities undertaken to carry out the provisions of OMB A-119 to National Institute of Standards and Technology (Census Bureau only).

## Appendix A: NGDA Data Themes (GDA Sec 2805) and NSDI Strategic Plan Crosswalk

The following is a crosswalk of National Geospatial Data Asset Data Themes (GDA Sec 2805) referenced within this Plan as the GDA relates to the NSDI Strategic Plan.

Goal	GDA Section	NSDI	GDA
I.	2805(b)(3)(E)	1.3, 2.1, 4.1	Goal: Administration of the Theme
I.A.	2805(b)(3)(E)(i)		Objective: Point of Contact
I.B.	2805(b)(3)(E)(ii)(I)	2.1, 4.1	Objective: Annual Reporting
I.C.	2805(b)(3)(E)(ii)(II)	2.1, 4.1	Objective: Annual Report Comments
II.	2805(b)(3)(B)	2.1-2.4, 3.1-3.4	Goal: Provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme
II.A.	2805(b)(3)(B)(i)	4.1-4.5	Objective: Partnerships
II.B.	2805(b)(3)(B)(ii), 2805(b)(3)(D)	2.4 3.1, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2	Objective: User Needs
II.C.	2805(b)(3)(B)(iii)	4.4	Objective: Human and Financial Resources
II.D.	2805(b)(3)(E)(iii)	2.4, 3.1-3.4	Objective: – Publish Maps or Comparable Graphics Online
II.E.	2805(b)(3)(E)(iv)	2.4, 3.1-3.4	Objective: Provide Access to NGDA Through the GeoPlatform
II.F.	2805(b)(3)(E)(v)	3.1	Objective: Coordinate with the GeoPlatform
II.G.	2805(b)(3)(E)(vi)	2.4	Objective: Publish Proven Geospatial Practices
III.	2805(b)(3)(A), (b)(3)(B)(iv)	3.4, 4.5	Goal: Data and Metadata Standards
III.A.	2805(b)(3)(B)(iv)	3.4, 4.5	Objective: Metadata Standards
III.B.	2805(b)(3)(A)(i)-(iii)	3.4, 4.5	Objective: Plan for Standards

## Appendix B: Census Bureau Partnership Program Timeline with Program Descriptions

The Census Bureau programs and acronyms included in this timeline are the principal contributors to NGDA dataset development. Descriptions are provided below.

Fiscal Year (FY)	2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				2030				2031				2032							
Quarter	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Decennial Programs	2021-2024 Design Research and Testing				2025-2029: Development and Integration Phase with small-scale and field tests												2029-2033 Peak Production and Close-Out Phase																							
	Initiate 2030 Census Federal Register Notices				Baseline 1: Operational Plan (Q1)				Census Test April 1, 2026				Finalize Operational Planning				Baseline 2 (Q1); Dress Rehearsal, April 1, 2028								Baseline 3 (Q1); Census Day April 1, 2030 (Q3)															
Partnership Programs	BAS 2024				BAS 2025				BAS 2026				BAS 2027				BAS 2028				BAS 2029				BAS 2030				BAS 2031				BAS 2032							
																					Boundary Validation Project (BVP)																			
	SDRP 2024				SDRP 2025				SDRP 2026				SDRP 2027				SDRP 2028				SDRP 2029				SDRP 2030				SDRP 2031				SDRP 2032							
	Boundary Quality																																							
									Block Boundary Suggestion Project (BBSP)																Redistricting/Voting District Boundaries (VTD)															
																	Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)--begin July 2028																							
Other Geographic and Delineation Programs																	2030 Tab Blocks																							
																	Urban Areas																							
																	Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA)																							
																Decennial census																								
																GARP																								
Fiscal Year (FY)	2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				2030				2031				2032							
Quarter	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				

**Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS):** The Census Bureau conducts the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) annually to provide eligible governments, which include tribal, state, and general-purpose local governments, an opportunity to review the Census Bureau’s legal boundary data to ensure the Census Bureau has the correct boundary, name, and status information and make necessary updates. Eligible governments use the BAS Partnership Toolbox, GUPS, or paper maps to participate in the program.

The **Boundary Validation Program** is conducted every 10 years to provide Tribal Chairs (TCs) and Highest Elected Officials the opportunity to review the boundary data collected during the BAS. BVP runs in



parallel to the 2030 BAS. Eligible governments with boundary updates during BVP will work with their BAS contact to provide updates through the 2030 BAS.

**School District Review Program (SDRP):** The School District Review Program (SDRP) allows state officials to review the Census Bureau school district information and to provide the Census Bureau with annual updates and corrections. These school district boundaries are used in conjunction with other federal and administrative records data to estimate the children aged 5-17 in families in poverty, which are the basis of annual Title 1 funding eligibility for each school district in a state.

**Boundary Quality Project (BQ):** The Boundary Quality Project (BQ) is designed to assess, analyze, and improve the spatial quality of legal and administrative boundaries within MAF/TIGER. The goal of the BQ project is to establish a new accurate baseline for boundaries within an entire state or county, which the BAS would then maintain by collecting individual annexations and deannexations or a transaction basis as they occur over the years. Participants are tribal, state, or general-purpose local government GIS coordinators, or regional or local data producers who can assist in assembling available boundary and cadastral data.

**Block Boundary Suggestion Project (BBSP):** The Block Boundary Suggestion Project (BBSP) of the Redistricting Data Program (RDP) invites legislative leadership in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to appoint a non-partisan liaison who contributes to the delineation of 2030 Tabulation Blocks. The non-partisan liaison uses the Census Bureau's GUPS tool or their own Geographic Information System to submit geospatial data to the BBSP program. The results of the BBSP are included with the release of population tabulations for redistricting in the year following the Census Day (April 1, 2030). That data is used by states to redistrict and those changes to congressional districts and state legislative districts are collected by the RDP in 2032.

**Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP):** Two years before the decennial census (2028) the Census Bureau invites regional planning agencies, councils of government, local governments, and organizations, and all federally recognized tribes and state tribal liaison offices to provide input to the Participant Statistical Areas program (PSAP). Stakeholders can review and modify statistical boundaries for standard and tribal boundaries such as census tracts, block groups, Census designated places (CDPs) and Census County Divisions (CCDs).

**Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) Delineation:** The Census Bureau partners with State Data Centers (SDCs) from each state, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico for the Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA) program. PUMA final criteria and delineation occurs after the publication of population counts and census tracts from the Decennial Census.

**Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) Delineation:** ZCTAs are generalized areal representations of the geographic extent and distribution of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) point-based Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) Codes dataset. The Census Bureau is restricted by Title 13 from releasing housing unit addresses or location information to the public, so point-based ZIP Code data are unsuitable for distribution and publication. Census Bureau will aggregate the points and extrapolate them to a polygonal-based unit using the 2030 Census tabulation blocks.

**Geographic Area Reconciliation Program (GARP):** GARP supports the review of legal boundary updates through quality checks conducted by Census Bureau Geographers.

## Appendix C: Governmental Units NGDA Datasets and Associated Agencies and Partnership Programs

NGDAID #	NGDA Name	Boundary Type	Agency/Bureau	Partnership Program
NGDAID 57	Series Information for 119 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Administrative (Legislative)	DOC/Census Bureau	Redistricting Data Program
NGDAID 58	Series Information for 2020 Census 5-Digit ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA5) National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Statistical	DOC/Census Bureau	
NGDAID 60	Series Information for 2020 Census Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Statistical	DOC/Census Bureau	
NGDAID 61	Series Information for 2020 Census Urban Area National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Statistical	DOC/Census Bureau	
NGDAID 62	Series Information for 2020 Census Urban Growth Area (UGA) State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Legal	DOC/Census Bureau	Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)
NGDAID 63	Series Information for 2020 Census Voting District (VTD) State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Administrative (Legislative)	DOC/Census Bureau	Redistricting Data Program
NGDAID 64	Series Information for American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Areas (AIANNH) National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current <i>(includes American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas (AIANNHs), Federal American Indian Reservations, State American Indian Areas, Off-Reservation Trust Lands, Hawaiian Home Lands, Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas, American Indian Joint-Use Areas, Tribal Subdivisions, Tribal Designated Statistical Areas, State Designated Tribal Statistical Areas)</i>	Legal and Statistical	DOC/Census Bureau	Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)  Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)
NGDAID 65	Series Information for American Indian Tribal Subdivision (AITS) National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current— <i>(includes Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Area (OTSA))</i>	Legal and Statistical	DOC/Census Bureau	Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)  Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)
NGDAID 66	Series Information for Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC) State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Legal	DOC/Census Bureau	Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)
NGDAID 69	Series Information for 2020 Census Block State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current Census Tract	Statistical	DOC/Census Bureau	Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)
NGDAID 70	Series Information for Block Group State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Statistical	DOC/Census Bureau	Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)
NGDAID 72	Series Information for Census Tract State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Statistical	DOC/Census Bureau	Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)
NGDAID 74	Series Information for Combined Statistical Area (CSA) National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Statistical	DOC/Census Bureau and Office of Management and Budget	
NGDAID 75	Series Information for Consolidated City State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Legal	DOC/Census Bureau	Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)
NGDAID 76	Series Information for County and Equivalent Entities National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Legal	DOC/Census Bureau	Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)
NGDAID 77	Series Information for County Subdivision State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Legal	DOC/Census Bureau	Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)
NGDAID 78	Series Information for Elementary School Districts State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Administrative (School District)	DOC/Census Bureau	School District Review Program

<b>NGDAID 80</b>	Series Information for Estate State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Legal	DOC/Census Bureau	Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)
<b>NGDAID 81</b>	HUD Entitlement Grantee Jurisdiction – National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA)	Administrative	Housing and Urban Development	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
<b>NGDAID 83</b>	Series Information for Metropolitan Division National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Statistical	DOC/Census Bureau and Office of Management and Budget	
<b>NGDAID 84</b>	Series Information for Core-Based Statistical Areas National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current (Metropolitan/Micropolitan Areas)	Statistical	DOC/Census Bureau and Office of Management and Budget	
<b>NGDAID 88</b>	Series Information for Place State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Legal and Statistical	DOC/Census Bureau	Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)  Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)
<b>NGDAID 89</b>	Series Information for Secondary School Districts State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Administrative (School District)	DOC/Census Bureau	School District Review Program
<b>NGDAID 90</b>	Series Information for State and Equivalent Entities National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Legal	DOC/Census Bureau	Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)
<b>NGDAID 91</b>	Series Information for State Legislative District (SLD) Lower Chamber (2024) State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Administrative (Legislative)	DOC/Census Bureau	Redistricting Data Program
<b>NGDAID 92</b>	Series Information for State Legislative District (SLD) Upper Chamber (2024) State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Administrative (Legislative)	DOC/Census Bureau	Redistricting Data Program
<b>NGDAID 93</b>	Series Information for Tribal Census Tract National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Statistical	DOC/Census Bureau	Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)
<b>NGDAID 94</b>	Series Information for Tribal Block Group National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Statistical	DOC/Census Bureau	Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)
<b>NGDAID 95</b>	Series Information for Tribal Census Tract National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Statistical	DOC/Census Bureau	Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)
<b>NGDAID 96</b>	Series Information for Unified School Districts State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	Administrative (School District)	DOC/Census Bureau	School District Review Program
<b>NGDAID 186</b>	BLM National Administrative Unit Boundary Polygons and Office Points	Administrative	DOI/Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	
<b>NGDAID 202</b>	School District Administrative Areas	Administrative (School District)	DOC/Census Bureau	School District Review Program
<b>NGDAID 204</b>	U.S. International Boundaries (National)	Legal	DOC/Census Bureau	Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)

## Appendix D: Concise list of Governmental Units Theme Roles and Responsibilities<sup>14</sup>

Role	Who	Responsibilities
Lead Covered Agency (LCA)	The Census Bureau is the Lead Covered Agency for the Governmental Units Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leads coordination of an NGDA data theme in compliance with the Geospatial Data Act (GDA)</li> <li>Advocates funding recommendations</li> </ul>
NGDA Theme Lead	Individuals who provide interdepartmental leadership and coordination at the NGDA Theme level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinates and oversees the NGDA data theme strategic planning, annual GDA reporting, standards endorsement process, NGDA status, and overall implementation of the Theme</li> <li>Provides dataset development priorities, Theme POCs, nomination/removal of NGDA datasets</li> </ul>
NGDA Dataset Manager	Individuals within the supporting agencies who provide coordination, database administration, and standards for NGDA datasets at a national level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Works with Data Stewards, Stakeholders, Theme Lead and/or Community of Interest to evaluate, curate, establish, and report on NGDA datasets on <a href="https://data.gov/GeoPlatform.gov">Data.gov/GeoPlatform.gov</a></li> </ul>
NGDA Metadata Manager	Individuals within the supporting agencies who perform data quality analysis and produce metadata for NGDA datasets at a national level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curates, produces, and manages standards and compliant metadata to ensure accessibility on <a href="https://data.gov/GeoPlatform.gov">Data.gov/GeoPlatform.gov</a></li> <li>Reports metadata harvesting and data quality issues on <a href="https://data.gov/GeoPlatform.gov">Data.gov/GeoPlatform.gov</a></li> </ul>
FGDC Subcommittee and Working Group Chair	Representatives from Federal agencies and FGDC recognized stakeholder groups, chairpersons/participants of the thematic Subcommittees and Working Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advances the development and maintenance of the NSDI, and associated coordination of Federal programs through collaboration and participation Subcommittees and Working Groups associated with the Theme</li> </ul>
Theme Specialists, Producers, and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)	Theme subcommittee members, geospatial program managers, data content, standards and licensing specialists, Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), Geospatial Information System (GIS) Specialists, data analysts, product development specialists, Cartographic staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides expertise on data policy, content, standards, licensing, and visualization of NGDA datasets.</li> </ul>
Agency Approval Authorities	Senior leadership (excluding the Executive Champion) and reviewers for GDA compliance activities, LCA reporting, standards endorsement, and NGDA proposals, NGDA Theme Community pages on the GeoPlatform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviews and approves annual GDA and LCA annual reporting, NGDA change proposals, biannual audit responses, standards endorsement, and NGDA Theme Community content on the GeoPlatform</li> </ul>
IT Support	Information Technology staff who provide production services and technical support for NGDA datasets on <a href="https://census.gov">Census.gov</a> and <a href="https://data.gov">Data.gov</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports the lifecycle of Geospatial Data Lifecycle and metadata harvesting on <a href="https://census.gov">Census.gov</a> and <a href="https://data.gov">Data.gov</a></li> </ul>

<sup>14</sup> This list of Governmental Units Theme Roles and Responsibilities is derived from the A-16 NGDA Portfolio Management – Roles & Responsibilities, <https://www.fgdc.gov/what-we-do/manage-federal-geospatial-resources/a-16-portfolio-management/roles-and-responsibilities>

## Appendix E: Human and Financial Resources Needs to support the Governmental Units Theme

Agency	Staff Role/Estimate	Theme Role
Census Bureau	NGDA Theme Lead (1 person)	NGDA Theme Community
Census Bureau	NGDA Dataset Manager (1-3 persons)	NGDA Theme Community (Census Bureau, HUD, BLM)
Census Bureau	NGDA Metadata Manager (1 person)	NGDA Theme Community
Census Bureau	FGDC Subcommittee or Working Group Chair (Other than the NGDA Theme Lead) (2 persons)	NGDA Theme Community
Census Bureau	Theme Specialists and Producers (4-6 persons)	Program Specialists, SMEs, Coordinators
Census Bureau	IT Staff (2 persons)	Information Technology Staff
<b>Staff Total</b>		

Agency	Shared Service Estimate (SSE)	Theme Role
Census Bureau	IT Support/Shared Services (Census.gov harvest 30 NGDA datasets to Data.gov) (1 person)	NGDA Metadata Harvest
Census Bureau	Data.gov/DCAT (1 person)	NGDA Access (FAIR)
Census Bureau	GeoPlatform.gov hub sites (4 persons)	Hub site maintainer
Census Bureau	GeoPlatform Support (1 person)	NGDA Access (FAIR)
Census Bureau	GeoPlatform Allocation (Enterprise)	Agency Shared Cost agreement
<b>SSE Total</b>		

## Appendix F: Standards in Use by the Governmental Units Theme NGDA Datasets

Standard Name	Standards Originator (ISO, OGC, FGDC, Agency)	Standards Type (Metadata, Data Content, Data Quality)	NGDA Datasets (NGDAID)
INCITS 31-2009 (R2019) Information Technology - Codes for the Identification of Counties and Equivalent Areas of the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Insular Areas	ISO	Data content	ALL ( <i>except</i> NGDAID 90)
INCITS 38-2009 (R2019) Information Technology - Codes for the Identification of the States and Equivalent Areas within the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Insular Areas	ISO	Data content	ALL
INCITS 454-2009 (R2019) Information Technology - Codes for the Identification of Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and Related Statistical Areas of the United States and Puerto Rico	ISO	Data content	NGDAID 74, 83, 84 only
INCITS 455-2009 (R2019) Information Technology - Codes for the Identification of Congressional Districts and Equivalent Areas of the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Insular Areas	ISO	Data content	NGDAID 57 only
ISO 19103:2015 Geographic information - Conceptual schema language	ISO	Data content	ALL
ISO 19107:2019 Geographic information - Spatial schema	ISO	Data content	ALL
ISO 19108:2002 Geographic information - Temporal schema	ISO	Data content	ALL
ISO 19108/Cor1:2006 (R2020) Geographic Information – Technical Corrigendum 1	ISO	Data content	ALL
INCITS/ISO 19110:2016 (2018) Geographic information -- Methodology for feature cataloguing	ISO	Data content	ALL
INCITS/ISO 19111:2019/AM1:2021 (2022) Geographic information - Referencing by coordinates - Amendment 1	ISO	Data content	ALL
INCITS/ISO 19115-2:2019/AM1:2022 (2022) Geographic information – Metadata – Part 2: Extensions for acquisition and processing - Amendment 1	ISO	Metadata	ALL
ISO 19136-1:2020 Geographic information - Geography Markup Language (GML) - Part 1: Fundamentals	ISO	Data content	ALL
INCITS/ISO/TS 19139-2:2012 (2017) Geographic information - Metadata - XML schema implementation - Part 2: Extensions for imagery and gridded data	ISO	Metadata	ALL
INCITS/ISO 19157:2013/AM 1:2018 (2020) Geographic information — Data quality — Amendment 1: Describing data quality using coverages	ISO	Data quality	ALL
Geographic Information Framework Data Content Standard, Part 5: Governmental unit and other geographic area boundaries, FGDC-STD-014.5-2008	FGDC	Data content	ALL
Geospatial Positioning Accuracy Standards Part 3: National Standard for Spatial Data Accuracy FGDC-STD-007.3-1998	FGDC	Data quality	ALL

KML 2.3	OGC	Data content	ALL
Web Feature Service	OGC	Data content	ALL
OpenGIS Web Map Service Interface Standard (WMS)	OGC	Data content	ALL
OpenGIS Web Map Service Interface Standard (WMS)	OGC	Data content	ALL
GeoPackage Encoding Standard—With Corrigendum	OGC	Data content	ALL
File Geodatabase (GDB)	Proprietary	Data content	ALL
Representational State Transfer (REST)	Proprietary	Data content	ALL
Feature Data Submission Guidelines	Agency	Data content	ALL
Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes (GENC) Standard Edition 2	Other	Data content	ALL
Unified Model Language (UML) 2.2	Other	Data content	ALL
Unicode® 13.0.0	Other	Data content	ALL
National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Geospatial Formats	Other	Data content	ALL