



Future RDC Researcher FAQ

1. What is the proposal process?

https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/center-for-economic-studies/Research_Proposal_Guidelines.pdf

2. Are there sample proposals available to the public?

Proposals are proprietary to the PI and respective research team and are not available for widespread dissemination. Reach out to the RDC administrator to discuss this further.

3. How long does it take for a proposal to be approved?

The time for approval varies by proposal type, data used, and partner organization. Please feel free to discuss your specific research topic with the RDC administrator to get a better idea of anticipated timeline.

4. What data are available in the RDC?

https://www.census.gov/about/adrm/fsrdc/about/available_data.html

5. Can I apply for SSS before my project is approved?

No, you must have a Census approved project to apply for SSS. However, you can apply while your proposal is under review by another agency, if that is required. Maintaining SSS requires annual online data trainings, though the initial SSS background check only happens once. Please reach out to the RDC administrator with any citizenship related questions.

6. How long does SSS approval take?

SSS approval usually takes 3-4 months though circumstances that may affect approval time may vary.

7. What criteria do I need to meet to apply for SSS?

You must either be a US citizen or have lived in the United States for at least three years out of the last five.

8. What kind of access will I have to the RDC once approved SSS?

Individuals using Census and some partners agencies will be allowed 24/7 access. However, NCHS researchers may only access the RDC when an Administrator is present.

9. Is ArcGIS available in the RDC?

You cannot access ArcGIS in the RDC. You can access GIS tools in Stata, R, and GeoDA. (ArcGIS is not compatible with a Linux system)

10. What analytics software is available in the RDC?

Standard statistical, econometric, and programming software, including Stata, SAS®, R, MATLAB and Anaconda python are available in a Linux environment. SPSS is not available in the RDC.

11. Am I allowed to bring my own programs or use-written commands (R, SAS, Stata, etc...) into the RDC?

Yes, but all programs must be submitted through your Administrator. You may also print your syntax/code outside of the RDC and bring it in to use on your project.

12. What can researchers bring into the physical RDC?

A notepad with your research notes and documentation to assist in research.

13. What can I take out with me?

Nothing can leave the RDC unless it is approved by the Disclosure Review Board or a disclosure officer with authority to approve output. Whatever is approved will be sent to you via email. When a project is terminated, all unapproved documents will be shredded.

14. Can I use my cell phone in the RDC?

No phone calls, texts, or internet access on your phone is permitted in the RDC. You are free to step outside to make a call or check email.

15. Are food and drink allowed at the workstations?

While individual RDCs may differ on this, generally it is preferred that you step away from the workstation, or out of the RDC, to eat or drink.

16. What fees should I expect?

Fees are specific to each RDC. Connect with your respective RDC Executive Director for more information about fees. Some partner agencies such as [BEA](#), [BLS](#), and [NCHS](#) charge separate fees.

17. Where can I present my RDC research?

Once the materials have gone through disclosure review, you may present your findings at research or academic conferences. The FSRDC program also holds an annual conference.