



Marilyn A. Sanders

Chicago Regional Director
U.S. Census Bureau

Marilyn A. Sanders currently serves as the Regional Director for the U.S. Census Bureau's Chicago Region. In this role, she oversees eight states with a total population of nearly 54 million people and nearly 24 million housing units. Mrs. Sanders also serves as an advisor to the U.S. Census Bureau's Field Division Transformation Team, and as a member of the Chicago Federal Executive Board. Her extensive career spans five Decennial Censuses and multiple Survey Data Collection innovations and improvements. Mrs. Sanders is committed to excellence at every level in pursuing the Bureau's mission.

Mrs. Sanders joined the Census Bureau as a Field Representative in the mid-70s, and served in many different capacities in the Regional Office before she was selected as a Survey Statistician in the mid-80s. Mrs. Sanders' interest in exploring all facets of the Census Bureau led her to accept a position as a Geographer, and subsequently as a Supervisory Geographer. She proved her expertise in this area for more than 10 years before returning to her role as a Supervisory Survey Statistician and Coordinator. She was selected as the Assistant Regional Director for the Chicago Region in 1998. She has a strong commitment to knowledge sharing and mentoring, understanding this to be pivotal in the success of the Region.

Mrs. Sanders' extensive knowledge of field data collection has been an invaluable asset to the Chicago Region. Her contributions as a Coordinator, Survey Statistician, Supervisory Geographer, Assistant Regional Census Manager, and Deputy Regional Director in both the 2000 and 2010 Censuses provide a glimpse of her more than forty-year career with the U.S. Census Bureau which has included five Decennial Censuses. Additionally, she was instrumental in the planning and implementation of the Special Census Program, when she served as the Coordinator of this effort, and has served as a resident subject matter expert for Headquarters staff.

She has received many commendations during her career. These recognitions included three Bronze Medals in 1992, 2000, and 2011, and the Presidential Hammer Award in 2010. She has been nominated twice for Federal Employee of the year for her outstanding public service. In recent years, Mrs. Sanders was selected to serve alongside other distinguished women during Women's History Month at the U.S. Census Bureau, where her achievements were highlighted to encourage other women to build careers within the Census Bureau. She was also featured in a U.S. Department of Commerce spotlight highlighting her achievements as an African American woman who has paved the way for other women

of color with the Bureau. During the 2020 Census, Mrs. Sanders was selected to represent the Census Bureau at the 56th Annual NAACP Awards.

Mrs. Sanders earned her BA degree in Business Management with a concentration in Economics from Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She attended the University of South Alabama and Governor State University, pursuing post-graduate studies in the areas of Geography and Statistics.