

Data Assurance and Authority
(Committee Draft 10-14-05)

The Partnership assumes that each partner is ultimately responsible for quality assurance and quality control of the data they share. The Partnership will recognize and respect the ownership rights for the data provided by each partner. Partners will be expected to adhere to the following:

- 1) Each partner will notify the Partnership of any issues related to ownership of data or data products that they contribute. Determining who is the owner of/has the authority to serve a dataset can sometimes be tricky. Sometimes datasets are collected in conjunction with other organizations or one group has acquired a dataset from another and made enhancements to it. The Partnership prefers datasets where sufficient authority exists to share the data. In order to determine if a dataset should be shared/contributed and to properly document ownership, the partner should consider the following questions:
 - i. Are you the primary creator/collector of the dataset or is there shared ownership?
 - ii. If you are not the primary creator/collector, do you have a formal distribution agreement with the data provider?
 - iii. Who else has the data or is serving it?
 - iv. Who will correct errors in the event any are discovered?
 - v. Who should the data user contact prior to using the data (if applicable)?
- 2) Partners that acquire, utilize or otherwise create new products from data externally or from an associated agency will indicate the original data source. This information will be identified through metadata documentation and registration.
- 3) Partners will contribute and maintain the best available representation of their data.
- 4) Each partner will be responsible for remedying any problems with a dataset in a timely manner as they arise.
- 5) Partners are encouraged to properly preserve/archive their data for perpetuity. In the event that a partner can not or will no longer serve a dataset of interest to the Partnership, the partner will work with the Partnership to ensure the data is secured for future availability.