**Where do you want to live? Using GeoFRED**

In this activity, you will use GeoFRED information to provide a researched argument for the state they want to live in. You will look at the various data available in GeoFRED and provide a reasoning using data to support your decision. You will be able to explore and evaluate the factors impacting states in public policy, and describe how these factors have changed over time.

**Data**

Go to <http://geofred.stlouisfed.org/>

Default is unemployment in 5 classifications

Edit Data and Layers

Choose what you would like to investigate:

Area (County, State, Region)

Categories (Demographics, Income, Taxation)

Data (Information of interest)

Classifications can be changed (larger for more groups, less for fewer groups)

The choice of an area to live in needs to be based on data, examples of some important GeoFRED data sets are:

**CredAbility Consumer Distress Index** (financial condition of the average American household)

**Resident Population** (number of people)

**Real Personal Income** (income after taking inflation into consideration)

**Real Total Gross Domestic Product by State** (total market value of production of the state)

**Real per Capita Personal Income** (income after inflation per person)

**State Unemployment Benefits** (comparison of unemployment insurance payouts)

**Total wages and salaries** (payments to everyone on payroll)

**Total Personal Income** (income received from all sources)

This choice is specific to you, the choice of a state should be based on your background and your specific plan for the future (think about career plans, taxes, and how you will measure quality of life).

**Assignment**

Write a brief memorandum describing how you came to the conclusion you did regarding where you want to live. Be sure to reference and include the relevant data you used to make your decision. Is your decision, made using the GEOFred data, at odds with one of the other resources listed below? If so, how?

In your writing address the following questions:  
1. Why the state you chose is ideal for you and what data is this choice based upon?  
2. How has your choice been effected by "quality of life" measurements?  
3. What factors regarding public policy have impacted your decision?

**Resources**

Places Rated Almanac, David Savageau: <http://placesrated.expertchoice.com/>

Best Places, Sperling’s: <http://www.bestplaces.net/>

National Data Book, US Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>