



June 22, 2020

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Shaheen,

As the Senate prepares to consider its version of the next COVID-19 spending measure, we, as members and affiliates of The Census Project (www.thecensusproject.org), urge you to include supplemental funding to help the Census Bureau cover costs related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its conduct of the 2020 Census.

As you know, the 2020 Census is underway with just over 60% of American homes having responded to date. A successful decennial census is paramount. Its data will inform congressional apportionment and the distribution of over \$1.5 trillion of federal funding a year for healthcare, education, roads, housing, and other vital services.¹ Further, over the next decade, the private sector will rely on 2020 Census data to make critical planning and investment decisions, while state and local government officials will use the data to meet the needs of their communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the challenge of conducting an inclusive, accurate, and efficient 2020 Census, forcing the Bureau to, among other things, adopt new procedures to protect field staff, temporarily suspend field operations and close local offices, and push the Nonresponse Follow-Up phase into the summer and fall. Because of these schedule adjustments, the Administration asked Congress for statutory relief to push back its delivery of apportionment counts to no later than April 30, 2021, and redistricting data to the states to before July 31, 2021—a decision that has deep operational and cost implications. Census stakeholders have already identified several needed enhancements, such as targeted advertising and outreach materials in additional languages and increased and expanded Census Questionnaire Assistance capacity, to address the severe disruption the COVID-19 crisis has caused for successful conduct of the 2020 Census.

¹ New Report Says \$1.5 Trillion in Federal Funding to States and Localities Annually Depends Upon Good Census Count. Nov. 18, 2019. <https://censusproject.files.wordpress.com/2019/11/counting-for-dollars-press-release-11.18.2019.pdf>

The Census Bureau estimates that the additional cost of adjustments to the 2020 Census operational timeline, as well as direct COVID-related costs (such as PPE for field staff, extra technology to support more enumerators, COVID-sensitive advertising, etc.), will be \$1.5 billion. The Census Bureau intends to cover these additional costs through its contingency fund. Census stakeholders are concerned that the Census Bureau could deplete its contingency fund, especially if the Bureau implements important enhancements beyond those currently planned, leaving the Bureau unable to adequately address other emergencies that may jeopardize the 2020 Census, including natural disasters (such as hurricanes), IT failures, and, unfortunately, further waves of COVID-19. Therefore, in its next COVID relief package, we urge the Senate to allocate at least \$400 million to help ensure a successful 2020 Census amidst significant challenges, which the U.S. House of Representatives included in its latest COVID relief bill (H.R. 6800, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act, or HEROES Act).

We thank you for your continued support of the Census Bureau and the 2020 Census, especially during these difficult, unpredictable times.

Sincerely,

National

Academic Pediatric Association
African American Health Alliance
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Anthropological Association
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Educational Research Association
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Library Association
American Pediatric Society
American Planning Association
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
Arab American Institute (AAI)
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public Data Users (APDU)
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
Campaign Legal Center
CensusChannel LLC
Common Cause

Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council for Community and Economic Research
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
Decision Demographics, LLC
Economic Policy Institute
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
Fair Count Inc.
Feeding America
Free Government Information
Government Information Watch
Hispanic Federation
Insights Association
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
League of Women Voters of the United States
Maxfield Research and Consulting LLC
Mi Familia Vota Education Fund
NAACP
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF)
NALEO Educational Fund
National Association for Business Economics
National Association of Black County Officials (NABCO)
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of REALTORS®
National Association of Regional Councils
National Association of Towns and Townships
National Coalition for Literacy
National Community Action Partnership
National Community Development Association
National Disability Rights Network
National Education Association
National Federation of Filipino American Associations
National League of Cities
National Organization of Black County Officials (NOBCO)
National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women
National Redistricting Foundation
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
NextDayBetter
Nielsen
Pediatric Policy Council
PFLAG National
Population Association of America
Prison Policy Initiative
ReadyNation
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Shepherding the Next Generation

SHK Global Health
 Society for Pediatric Research
 Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
 State Voices
 The Gerontological Society of America
 The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
 The National Association for Bilingual Education
 The U.S. Conference of Mayors
 Union for Reform Judaism
 Urban and Regional Information Systems Association
 Voices for Progress
 William C. Velasquez Institute
 Young Elected Officials (YEO) Network

State/Local/City/Regional

Advocates for Children of New Jersey		NJ
Advancement Project California		CA
AFGE Census Bureau Council 241	Washington	DC
Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment (AFIRE)	Chicago	IL
Allston Brighton Health Collaborative	Boston	MA
Antelope Valley Partners for Health	Lancaster	CA
Asian American Federation		NY
California Native Vote Project		CA
Canal Alliance	San Rafael	CA
Center for Civic Policy		NM
Center for the Integration and Advancement of New Americans, Inc. (CIANA)	Astoria	NY
Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)	New York	NY
City of Detroit, 2020 Census Campaign	Detroit	MI
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)		CA
Colorado Civic Engagement Roundtable		CO
Colorado Common Cause		CO
Common Cause Florida		FL
Common Cause Maryland		MD
Common Cause MN		MN
Common Cause New Mexico		NM
Common Cause Pennsylvania		PA
Community Action, Inc.	Haverhill	MA
Crescent City Media Group/CCA		LA
Darfur People's Association of New York	New York	NY
Dreams United/Sueños, Inc.	Long Prairie	MN
Equality California		CA
Filipino American Lawyers Association of Chicago (FALA Chicago)	Chicago	IL
First AME Seattle Church 2020 Census Project	Seattle	WA

Georgia Stand-Up		GA
Housing Action Illinois		IL
Housing California		CA
Idaho State Complete Count Committee		ID
Indivisible Hawaii		HI
International Children Assistance Network (ICAN)	San Jose	CA
Kentucky Youth Advocates		KY
Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota		MN
Luib Health Specialty Services, LLC	Vista	CA
MACS 2020 - Minnesotans for the American Community Survey & 2020 Census		MN
Michigan's Children		MI
Minnesota Council on Foundations		MN
Minnesotans for the ACS		MN
Montgomery Citizens United for Prosperity (MCUP)	Duck Hill	MS
Montgomery Counts, City of Montgomery (AL)	Montgomery	AL
Montgomery County Community Action Board	Rockville	MD
New Mexico Thrives		NM
New York Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.	New York	NY
New York Coalition of One Hundred Black Women, Inc.	New York	NY
New York Counts 2020		NY
New York Immigration Coalition		NY
Ohio Census Advocacy Coalition		OH
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children		PA
PICO California		
Public Justice Center		MD
Rabun County Board of Commissioners	Clayton	GA
Research Advisory Services, Inc.	Phoenix	AZ
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT		RI
San Diego Grantmakers	San Diego	CA
Silver State Equality-Nevada		NV
Sisters of Providence Holyoke, MA	Holyoke	MA
South Asian Network	Artesia	CA
Southeast Michigan Census Council	Southfield	MI
St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church - Beaumont	Beaumont	TX
United Way of Madison County	Anderson	IN
UNM Community Engagement Center		NM
Virginia Civic Engagement Table (VCET)		VA
Voices for Utah Children		UT