



THE CENSUS PROJECT

Supporting quality measures of America's economy and places

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2019-2021

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1998

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2012-2013

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April 10, 2024

Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Chair
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Hal Rogers, Chairman
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Jerry Moran, Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Matt Cartwright, Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Shaheen, Ranking Member Moran, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Cartwright,

On behalf of [The Census Project](https://www.TheCensusProject.org), a broad-based coalition of business, civic, human services, state and local government, education, and scientific organizations committed to supporting the U.S. Census Bureau's mission to produce full, fair, complete, and accurate data, we are writing to express our support for funding the U.S. Census Bureau in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. Specifically, we **urge Congress to provide the U.S. Census Bureau with \$2 billion in FY 2025** and to **oppose any proposals that would use the agency as an offset** to fund other programs in the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) appropriations bill.

FY 2025 is a pivotal year in the ramp up to the 2030 Census. It marks the midpoint in the decade-long planning process for the next constitutionally-mandated decennial census—the nation's largest peacetime civilian initiative. In FY 2025, the Bureau will complete its first major 2030 Census milestone: selecting an operational design. The operational design will affect every facet of the 2030 Census, including the 2026 Census Test in which the Bureau will assess innovative systems and methods designed uniquely to ensure an inclusive, cost effective, and accurate 2030 count. Investing in decennial census preparations now will reduce the risk of requiring unplanned, additional funding in the peak years at the end of the decade. As we learned in the run up to the 2020 count, postponing planning for decennial operations introduces greater risk to a successful outcome.

As the premier Federal statistical agency, the Census Bureau is responsible for conducting a wide range of activities beyond managing decennial census operations. In its proposed FY 2025 budget, the agency details numerous priorities and activities, including plans to restore and enhance the Survey of Income and Program Participation

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(SIPP); sustain improvements to the Population Estimates program; initiate a new Puerto Rico Economic Survey; and continue implementation of the Data Ingest and Collection for the Enterprise (DICE) program, a more-advanced data collection platform.

While we, as census stakeholders, are generally pleased the President’s FY 2025 request to Congress reflects a slight increase over the Bureau’s FY 2024 enacted level and would maintain modernization efforts supported by census stakeholders, we are concerned that the Administration’s proposal falls short of the more robust investments [The Census Project recommended for FY 2025](#) to deliver complete and accurate data for the nation. Specifically, we are concerned that the Administration’s budget falls short of necessary investments needed to support 2030 Census planning and to stabilize and enhance the American Community Survey (ACS)—the official, trusted, and public source of continuous, updated demographic, socioeconomic, and housing data used by public, private and non-profit sectors in every community across the country.

To empower the Census Bureau to embark on activities outlined in their FY 2025 budget, as well as others identified by census stakeholders, including improvements to the ACS, we urge Congress to provide the agency with \$2 billion in FY 2025. Further, we strongly urge you to reject any proposals that would use the Census Bureau as a funding offset. The Bureau should not be perceived as an acceptable “piggybank” to support other programs funded by the CJS bill.

Thank you for considering our views as you craft the FY 2025 CJS appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

National

- Academic Pediatric Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Anthropological Association
- American Civil Liberties Union
- American Educational Research Association
- American Pediatric Society
- American Sociological Association
- American Statistical Association
- Arab American Institute (AAI)
- Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC
- Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)
- Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
- Association of Population Centers
- Association of Public Data Users

CensusChannel LLC
Children's HealthWatch
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Coalition on Human Needs
Common Cause
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
Decision Demographics, LLC
Demographic Analytics Advisors
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Erase The Divide LLC
First Focus Campaign for Children
Generations United
Gerontological Society of America
Government Information Watch
ICSC
Insights Association
League of Women Voters of the United States
NALEO Educational Fund
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association for Business Economics (NABE)
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Towns and Townships
National Coalition for Literacy
National Community Action Partnership
National Community Development Association
National Disability Institute
National LGBTQI+ Cancer Network
National NeighborWorks Association
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Urban League
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Nielsen
Partnership for America's Children
Pediatric Policy Council
People Power United
Population Association of America
Prison Policy Initiative

Project On Government Oversight
 Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
 Save the Children
 Society for Pediatric Research
 The Consortium of Social Science Associations
 The Educare Network
 The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
 United Church of Christ
 Urban and Regional Information Systems Association
 Voices for Progress
 Whitman-Walker Institute
 ZERO TO THREE

State-Level

CHILDREN AT RISK	TX
Children's Institute	OR
Colorado Children's Campaign	CO
Colorado Civic Engagement Roundtable	CO
Common Good Iowa	IA
Council of Michigan Foundations	MI
CT Early Childhood Alliance	CT
Delaware Community Foundation	DE
Early Milestones Colorado	CO
Forefront (IL)	IL
Georgia Coalition for the Peoples Agenda	GA
GRACE/End Child Poverty California	CA
Housing Action Illinois	IL
Hunger Free Vermont	VT
Indivisible Hawaii	HI
Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas	MN
Louisiana Association for the Education of Young Children (LAAEYC)	LA
MACS 2030 - Minnesotans for the American Community Survey and 2030 Census	MN
Michigan Nonprofit Association	MI
Minnesota Budget Project	MN
Minnesota Council on Foundations	MN
NC Counts Coalition	NC
New Jersey Tenants Organization	NJ
Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits	OK
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy	OK

Our Children Oregon	OR
Parent Possible	CO
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children	PA
Public Justice Center	MD
SC Counts	SC
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center	SC
South Carolina Program for Infant/Toddler Care	SC
The Alaska Census Working Group/The Foraker Group	AK
The Bingham Program	ME
The Children's Agenda	NY
VOICES for Alabama's Children	AL
Wyoming Community Foundation	WY

Local/City/Regional

Activists With A Purpose Plus	Grenada	MS
Apalachee Regional Planning Council	Tallahassee	FL
Instituto del Desarrollo de la Juventud	San Juan	PR
Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County	Clearwater	FL
Long Beach Gray Panthers	Long Beach	CA
Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.	Maui County	HI
MICAH- Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing	St. Paul	MN
Minneapolis Foundation	Minneapolis	MN
Na'ah Illahee Fund	Seattle	WA
NEK-CAP, Inc.	Hiawatha	KS
OMID Multicultural Institute for Development	Irvine	CA
Paraquad	St. Louis	MO
San Diego for Every Child	San Diego	CA
Southern Echo Inc.	Jackson	MS
Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc.	Jewett City	CT
The Data Center of Southeast Louisiana	New Orleans	LA
The Healing Trust	Nashville	TN
West Central Initiative	Fergus Falls	MN