



April 21, 2023

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

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

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

Representative 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](#), a broad-based coalition of business, civic, human services, state and local government, and academic groups committed to supporting the U.S. Census Bureau's mission to produce full, fair, complete, and accurate data, we are writing to express support for providing the agency with robust funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.

Specifically, we urge Congress to provide **\$2 billion in funding for the Census Bureau**, which represents a \$394 million increase above the President's request, and a \$521 million increase from the agency's FY 2023 enacted level.

Census stakeholders recognize the Biden Administration for proposing a slight increase in funding for the Census Bureau in the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget. The Administration's request supports a number of important initiatives, but it does not include sufficient additional funding to **fully** support other priorities identified by the census stakeholder community, including:

- Enhancing the American Community Survey (ACS);
- Strengthening the Population Estimates and Federal-State Cooperative for Population Estimates programs;
- Investing early and fully in 2030 Census preparations; and
- Accelerating initiatives to make Census data timelier and more accessible and to reduce survey respondent burden.

Additional funding, above the Administration's request, is necessary for the agency to not only realize the full potential of several initiatives outlined in the Census Bureau's proposed FY 2024 budget request, but also to support other priorities identified by census stakeholders—especially 2030 Census preparations and the ACS, which comprise the largest components of the Census Bureau's Decennial Census account.

### **2030 Census**

As you know, we are already a third of the way into the 2030 Census cycle. Given this stark reality, census stakeholders are unified in their support for ensuring the Census Bureau has robust funding early

in the decade to support preparations for the next decennial. Funding shortfalls during the last decade forced the Bureau to scale back strategic field tests—a decision that may have contributed to the less accurate counts of racial and ethnic populations, rural areas, and young children in the 2020 Census. Investing in the 2030 Census now will allow the Bureau to sustain essential capabilities and schedules and reduce the risk of requiring unplanned, additional funding in the peak planning years later in the decade.

While the President’s request proposes a slight increase to support 2030 preparations, census stakeholders urge Congress to scrutinize the Bureau’s recommendation to determine if the funding level is sufficient to support activities and to make up any funding shortfalls. It is imperative that the agency receive sound investments now to ensure the future success and cost-efficiency of the 2030 Census.

### **American Community Survey**

In 2021, local communities, entrepreneurs, urban planners, major corporations, and thousands of others that depend on annual data from the Census Bureau’s ACS were stunned when both major annual data releases were delayed or replaced with experimental data due to quality issues. Years of underinvestment (and the pandemic) have degraded ACS data, precluded necessary increases in the survey’s sample size and shortchanged the Bureau’s ability to address steadily declining response rates, revise content, and make other methodological and operational improvements to ensure the integrity of ACS estimates.

In response, in 2022, The Census Project [commissioned a report](#) outlining recommendations for how to enhance the survey’s content and operations. The report, which is in the process of being updated in 2023, urges an infusion of \$100 to \$300 million to protect the ACS from further data quality deficiencies, enhance non-response follow up operations, increase the survey’s sample size, reduce respondent burden, and develop new data products, as well as considering adding new questions and survey content that are needed to ensure the ACS is accurately capturing data about the nation’s increasingly complex population and households. Strengthening the ACS is also essential given its role as a test bed for the next decennial—especially as the ramp up to the 2030 Census commences.

Census stakeholders are aware of the fiscal challenges facing the FY 2024 CJS appropriations bill and accept that your subcommittees have many competing priorities. However, given the consequential role census data play in directing the allocation of federal funding, prioritizing support for the Census Bureau will help to ensure the highest quality data are being developed, disseminated, and used to inform the [distribution of over \\$1.5 trillion in federal funds annually](#).

Thank you for considering the needs of the Census Bureau as your subcommittees deliberate the FY 2024 CJS appropriations bill. We appreciate your attention to our request and urge you to provide the Census Bureau with \$2 billion in FY 2024.

Sincerely,

#### **National**

- Academic Pediatric Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Anthropological Association
- American Educational Research Association
- American Pediatric Society
- American Psychological Association
- American Sociological Association

American Statistical Association  
Arab American Institute (AAI)  
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  
Claritas  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics  
Decision Demographics, LLC  
Demographic Analytics Advisors  
Fair Count  
Family Centered Treatment Foundation  
Free Government Information (FGI)  
ICSC  
Insights Association  
Institute for Wise Philanthropy  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)  
Movement Advancement Project  
NALEO Educational Fund  
National Association for Business Economics (NABE)  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of REALTORS®  
National Association of Towns and Townships  
National Community Development Association  
National League of Cities  
National Multifamily Housing Council  
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)  
National Urban League  
Nielsen  
Partnership for America's Children  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Population Association of America  
Prison Policy Initiative  
Society for Pediatric Research  
The Consortium of Social Science Associations  
The Gerontological Society of America  
The Leadership Conference On Civil and Human Rights  
United Philanthropy Forum  
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association  
ZERO TO THREE

US Conference of Mayors

**State-Level**

Committee of Seventy		PA
Delaware Community Foundation		DE
Equality California		CA
Forefront		IL
Housing Action Illinois		IL
Hunger Free Vermont		VT
MACS 2030 - Minnesotans for the American Community Survey and 2030 Census		MN
Minnesota Council on Foundations		MN
NC Counts Coalition		NC
NY Census & Redistricting Institute at New York Law School		NY
NY Funders Alliance		NY
Our Children Oregon		OR
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children		PA
Public Justice Center		MD
SC Counts		SC
Silver State Equality		NV
The Foraker Group		AK
Florida Philanthropic Network		FL

**Local/City/Regional**

Activists With A Purpose Plus	Grenada	MS
Apalachee Regional Planning Council	Tallahassee	FL
City of Brooklyn Park	City of Brooklyn Park	MN
Here For Us Advocacy Coalition	Montgomery County	PA
Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County	Everett	WA
Na'ah Illahee Fund	Seattle	WA
Samuel S. Fels Fund	Philadelphia	PA
Southwest Initiative Foundation	Hutchinson	MN