



THE CENSUS PROJECT

Supporting quality measures of
America's economy and places

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National Census Coalition Reacts to President Biden's FY 2025 Budget for Census Bureau

Washington, D.C. - The Census Project, a national broad-based coalition of advocates for full funding of the Census Bureau and especially the American Community Survey (ACS), reacted to President Biden's just-released Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025) [Budget](#) for the agency. The Budget provides \$1.6 billion for the Census Bureau, a \$93 million increase from the [FY 2023 enacted level](#) and a \$218 million increase from the [FY 2024 enacted level](#). The President's request includes funding to support information technology system modernization to improve the collection and analysis of data, funding to improve how the Census Bureau measures the economic wellbeing of Americans over time, and investments in gathering data about Puerto Rico's people and economy.

While generally pleased that the President's request to Congress reflects an increase, and maintains investments in some modernization efforts the Census Project has supported, it falls short of the more robust investments the coalition [recommended last month](#) to deliver more complete and accurate data for the nation.

"It is not surprising in the current fiscal reality of continuing resolutions that the White House was modest in its request, but the Census Project will be impressing upon the Congress the need to make stronger investments to preserve America's vital statistical data," said Mary Jo Hoeksema, Co-Director of the Census Project.

The President's request includes \$1,210,344,000 for Periodic Censuses and Programs, including planning for the 2030 Decennial and preparations for the mid-decade Economic Census. The Budget also includes \$367,347,000 for Census Surveys and Programs. For FY 2025, the Budget aims to support the continued transition to new enterprise systems, development of new program instruments and methodologies, and a restoration of the sample size in the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) to offset rising costs over time and ensure the survey provides comprehensive information on the economic well-being of individuals and households. It also would support continued investment in the Enterprise Data Collection & Dissemination Systems, which is supposed to support major data collection, processing, and dissemination systems and associated research for the Census Bureau's programs. In FY 2025, the Census Bureau would continue to onboard programs into the new dissemination system. Work will also continue to integrate the Enterprise Data Lake with the Data Collection and Ingest for the Enterprise (DICE) program. FY 2025 is the peak year of software development for the DICE program. By the end of

FY 2025, the program plans to offer modernized and reusable solutions for all current Census Bureau survey collection modes, including internet self-response, paper response, in-person interview, and telephone interview.

“Our coalition members support a funding level of \$2 billion and have provided a thorough and comprehensive justification on behalf of every community in the country. The American Community Survey (ACS) especially has long needed investment to improve the timeliness and quality of data uniquely important to decisionmakers in the private and public sectors,” said Howard Fienberg, Co-Director of the Census Project.

Hoeksema concluded that, “The coming fiscal year must include plenty of preparation and testing for the 2030 Census, because we are already half-way through the decennial cycle. Maximizing investment as much as possible at this point could save billions over the course of the decade.”

The Census Project (<https://thecensusproject.org>) is a broad-based coalition of national, state, and local organizations and companies that support an inclusive and accurate 2030 Census and American Community Survey (ACS) (the modern version of the census “long form”). Its 800+ member organizations and companies, representing the private, public, non-profit, and academic sectors, rely on objective data that the Census Bureau produces to inform evidence-based investment, policy and planning decisions.