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**Census Project Urges Congressional Leadership  
to Approve FY 2014 Obama Budget for Census Bureau**  
*Calls on President Obama to Quickly Name New Census Director to Guide  
Bureau*

WASHINGTON - The Census Project coalition, a network of over 600 national, state and local organizations supporting the U.S. Census Bureau and the essential data it produces, has written separate letters to [congressional leadership](#) and to [President Obama](#).

The letter to congressional leadership urges Congress to approve the Obama Administration's budget request of \$982.5 million for FY 2014, including full funding for the American Community Survey (ACS) and for continued planning for the 2020 decennial census. The letter to President Obama urges him to quickly move to appoint a permanent director of the Census Bureau, a post now vacant for nine months.

"We cannot overstate the importance of both the decennial enumeration and ACS to the work we all do. The data are central to our democracy, affecting not only political representation from Congress down to local school boards, but also the prudent allocation of federal aid to states and localities each year. Businesses use Census Bureau data daily to make investment decisions on location, hiring, and useful products and services that are key to our economic recovery and growth," said the Census Project letter to congressional leadership.

The Census Project noted that FY 2014 is a critical year in planning for the 2020 census, as the Census Bureau wants resources to test a number of money-saving techniques that could save taxpayer money and increase decennial census accuracy; these techniques include the use of the Internet to collect responses and administrative records to augment information about non-responders.

The Census Project noted that failure to appropriate money for these cost-saving procedures now “could cost taxpayers billions of dollars more down the road.”

In its letter to President Obama, the Census Project declared that “the Census Bureau needs a permanent director, particularly as the agency confronts serious budget challenges, defends the American Community Survey (ACS), and conducts critical testing and systems development for Census 2020.”

A provision of the newly enacted Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act provides for the first time the ability for a census director to serve two five-year terms, providing the stability the Census Bureau needs to put into place significant reforms for the next decennial census and to manage the ACS.

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