

Subject head-American Community Survey, Vital to Nation's Communities

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Groups Urge Congress to Fund American Community Survey

WASHINGTON--Groups representing the nation's state and local governments including governors, state legislators, cities and counties (the so-called Big 7 groups) this week issued [a letter](#) urging U.S. House policymakers not to cut back [funding](#) for the American Community Survey, according to the [Census Project](#).

In addition, 20 major business groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Home Builders and the National Association of REALTORS®, recently sent [a similar letter](#) to House leadership.

Finally, Office of Management and Budget head Shaun Donovan, in a [third letter](#) directed to House policymakers, urged full funding of the ACS, saying a bill the House Appropriations Committee passed this week "could force Census to make drastic cuts to... bedrock sources of economic and social indicators such as the American Community Survey."

"The ACS is an ongoing statistical survey that samples the population each year in order to provide communities the information they need to plan investments and services. It is the most relied upon source of current socio-economic, housing and financial information in the country. The federal government, states and local communities all depend on this survey's essential data," said the Big 7 letter.

The U.S. Census Bureau's FY 2016 budget now heads to the House floor for action.

"The ACS is the largest and only data set of its kind. Its critically important information is used to determine the amount of federal funds states and local governments receive for essential services such as education and public health. The survey's income data is used to determine federal allocations for Medicaid, a program that accounts for an estimated 43 percent of all federal grants to states. State and local governments also use ACS data to make funding decisions about roads, highways, schools, hospitals and other critical infrastructure projects," the Big 7 letter also declared.

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