



THE CENSUS PROJECT

Supporting quality measures of
America's economy and places

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Census Experts Call on Congress To Invest in Modernization of Census Bureau Data Infrastructure After Decade of Neglect

Washington, D.C. – A broad-based coalition of census experts and data users called on the leaders of the U.S. House and Senate Appropriations committees to provide \$2 billion in funding for the U.S. Census Bureau in the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations process to help the agency catch up with needed investments across multiple surveys that have been long delayed.

In a [letter](#) to the chairs and ranking members of the appropriations committees, the coalition of 55 national, state, and local organizations wrote: "...[t]he Census Bureau is at an important crossroads: still resolving the outcome of the 2020 Census, while simultaneously pursuing groundbreaking technical innovations and preparing for the 2030 Census. In FY 2022, Congress has a unique opportunity to initiate multi-year funding for the Bureau, providing the agency with resources that it needs to not only sustain and strengthen its mission, but also to recover from years of postponed enhancements and pursue numerous necessary operational improvements,"

The diverse coalition acknowledged this would be an unprecedented investment of funds following the completion of a decennial census, but necessary to expand and enhance the American Community Survey (ACS), stabilize the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), build upon and innovate new surveys such as the Census Pulse surveys, and prepare for the 2022 Economic Census.

The signers of the letter represent a cross-section of American business, civic, research and government organizations, including the National Association of Realtors, the National League of Cities, the Partnership for America's Children, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Statistical Association.

The Census Bureau conducts over 100 surveys a year providing the nation with trusted data on the nation's health, housing, economy, and demographic characteristics.

Census Project co-director Howard Fienberg of Insights Association said, "... the Bureau's data users and policy makers are demanding more timely and granular data, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Congress passed major relief legislation and the country needs to measure how well provisions of those massive bills worked (or not)."

According to Census Project co-director Mary Jo Hoeksema, “The Census Bureau is fundamental to a broad range of public policy goals. To meet these needs and adapt to changing times, innovations in collecting and measuring the economy, people and places require substantial new public investments.”

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 2020 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.