



THE CENSUS PROJECT

Supporting quality measures of
America's economy and places

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Impressive Array of Senators Call for Major New Investments in Census Bureau Data Modernization

Washington, D.C. – Thirty-two U.S. Senators called on the leaders of the Senate Appropriations committee 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 on long delayed investments necessary to modernize and expand Census Bureau surveys and data products.

Led by Senators Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Tina Smith (D-MN), the influential group of Senators [wrote](#) to the chair and ranking member of the appropriations committee seeking a \$365 billion increase over the President's request for FY22, [aligning with a funding level proposed by The Census Project](#) just last month. In their letter, the Senators wrote: “...*The Census Bureau is at an important crossroads. The agency is 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 not only to sustain and strengthen its mission, but also to recover from years of postponed enhancements and pursue numerous necessary operational improvements.*”

A list of signers to the letter can be found [here](#). The letter is a sign of growing consensus in the census stakeholder community and the Congress for an unprecedented investment of funds to modernize and expand census data operations. Among the investments are efforts including, but not limited to, increasing the size of the American Community Survey (ACS) sample, stabilizing funding for the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), and building upon innovative new surveys such as the Census Pulse surveys, at the same time the Bureau is deploying comprehensive data collection efforts for the 2022 Economic Census.

“*The Census Bureau faces many challenges and opportunities during this upcoming fiscal year, and Congress has the opportunity to provide robust assistance in the agency's efforts,*” said the Senators, reflecting a desire to transition the agency into a new era to provide more robust, granular, and timely information about the nation's people, places and economy.

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, "... it seems clear the collective, diverse voices of the Census Projects stakeholder community is making an impact in Congress. An increase in FY22 funding of the size called for by these Senate leaders on census issues will pay dividends for the nation over the next decade."

Census Project co-director Mary Jo Hoeksema added, "The Census Project is gratified that our work to broadly educate and inform about the needed transformation efforts at the Census Bureau is being heard and acted upon. We have an opportunity to dramatically enhance the official statistics on the nation's economy and communities, and we hope the Appropriations Committee acts to seize this moment."

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.