



THE CENSUS PROJECT

Supporting quality measures of
America's economy and places

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Census Data Experts and Users Urge Appropriators Provide \$2 Billion to Fill Gaps in 2020 Data for Communities

Washington, D.C. – As yet another [data release](#) from the Covid-19-disrupted 2020 census and [survey](#) efforts has been officially delayed, a broad coalition of census advocates urged Senate and House appropriations leaders to make important investments in Fiscal Year 2023 funding to help states and communities deal with the new data gaps.

On behalf of The Census Project 79 national, state, and local organizations representing business, civic, human services, state and local government, and academic groups committed to supporting the mission to produce full, fair, complete, and accurate data, including data from the 2020 Census and American Community Survey (ACS), [wrote](#), “... we urge Congress to provide \$2 billion in funding for the Census Bureau, which represents a \$495 million increase over the President’s budget request (\$1.505 billion) and \$646 million over the agency’s FY 2022 enacted level (\$1.354 million).”

The [letter](#) called attention to the critical need for new investments saying, “[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 2023, 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 to consolidate and integrate legacy surveys and systems into a new, more nimble data collection and dissemination model, to enhance the American Community Survey (ACS), and to implement initiatives outlined in the Administration’s FY 2023 budget submission and others proposed by census stakeholders...”

Key among the tools to help states and localities deal with delayed census results is an important revitalization of the largest sample survey the Bureau conducts, the ACS: “...an [independent report](#) issued in 2022 by The Census Project urges an infusion of \$100 to \$300 million to protect the ACS from further data quality deficiencies and take up a long list of activities to ensure the survey is accurately capturing data about the nation’s increasingly complex population and households.”

Census Project co-director Howard Fienberg stressed that, “Only Congress can help fill the gaps created by this delayed data releases so critical to economic investment, community planning, and research. The FY2023 appropriation is the first and best place to start the remedy.”

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“It is so important to provide the nation with an improved Population Estimates program, enhancements to the ACS and other innovations in census operations to give the nation the essential data it relies upon,” said Census Project co-direct Mary Jo Hoeksema.

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 900+ 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.