



# THE CENSUS PROJECT

Supporting quality measures of  
America's economy and places

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## **Census Experts Call on Congress To Approve The House-Passed Fiscal Year 2023 Funding Level for Census Bureau**

**Washington, D.C.** – Just as House and Senate Appropriators are negotiating the final compromise funding levels for FY 2023 spending bills, a broad coalition of census advocates wrote to the chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees on Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) to approve the House passed version of the Census Bureau’s new budget.

In a [letter](#) to the chairs and ranking members of the appropriations committees, the broad based list of more than 100 national, state, and local organizations wrote: “...[t] We want to ensure that the Census Bureau receives the highest possible level of funding in the final Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations bill. Specifically, we urge that the final FY 2023 CJS appropriations bill provide the Census Bureau with at least \$1.505 billion—an amount approved by the House Appropriations Committee.”

They said the higher level of funding from the House was essential because “...[t]he Census Bureau—the nation’s largest statistical agency—is at an important crossroads. The agency is still resolving the outcome of the 2020 Census, while simultaneously pursuing groundbreaking innovations and preparing for the 2030 Census. As FY 2023 begins, 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.”

The signers of the letter represent a cross-section of American business, civic, research and government organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association for Business Economics, National League of Cities, the Partnership for America’s Children, and dozens more national, state and local organizations who rely upon timely, accurate and robust census data with many using it daily.

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 House level of funding gives the Bureau the best chance to keep their modernization moving forward and keep pace with innovations in the private sector."

According to Census Project co-director Mary Jo Hoeksema, "states and local communities desperately need an improved ACS and an enhanced Population Estimates program to fill in gaps in the 2020 data. The House funding level makes these more possible."

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*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.*