



**THE CENSUS  
PROJECT**  
Supporting quality measures of  
America's economy and places



January 11, 2023

The Honorable Shalanda Young  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 50001  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Young,

On behalf of the thousands of census stakeholders and data users from the private, public, non-profit, and academic sectors that our organizations represent, we are writing to encourage the Administration to prioritize funding for the U.S. Census Bureau and 2030 Census in its Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget submission.

Census stakeholders are disappointed by the outcome of the FY 2023 appropriations process, which resulted in the Census Bureau receiving \$20.5 million less than the Administration requested. We are especially concerned that this shortfall is a setback for the 2030 Census funding trajectory. Funding for the 2030 Census must begin “ramping up” early in the decade to support critical testing and operations geared toward achieving an **inclusive, accurate, and cost-effective** decennial census. Given we are a third of the way into the 2030 Census planning cycle, there is an urgent need for the Administration to ensure the Bureau has increased resources and support in FY 2024.

We recognize that the Administration is in the final stretch of preparing its FY 2024 budget. Census stakeholders have been vocal throughout the process, communicating with the Office of Management and Budget and Department of Commerce and urging robust funding for the Census Bureau in FY 2024. We have consistently stated that in addition to supporting 2030 Census operations, the Census Bureau has other pressing unmet programmatic needs that require adequate funding. These activities include enhancing the content and conduct of the American Community Survey and providing the Population Estimates Program with a long overdue funding increase—the latter being particularly important for mitigating the impact of inaccurate counts of racial and ethnic populations, rural areas, and young children resulting from the 2020 Census.

The new, more fiscally conservative environment in Congress has the potential to complicate FY 2024 appropriations deliberations. It is possible that the President’s budget request will

represent the high-water mark of the debate. To improve the Bureau's chances of receiving a strong final funding level in FY 2024, the President should communicate clearly that the Census Bureau and 2030 Census preparations are major Administration priorities.

Thank you for considering our views as you finalize the details of the Administration's FY 2024 budget submission to Congress. For any questions or concerns, please contact Mary Jo Hoeksema, Co-Director of The Census Project, at ([maryjo@popassoc.org](mailto:maryjo@popassoc.org)) or Meeta Anand, senior director of the census and data equity program at The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, at ([anand@civilrights.org](mailto:anand@civilrights.org)).

Sincerely,



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Jesselyn McCurdy  
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The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

cc     The Honorable Gina Raimondo  
          The Honorable Jed Kolko  
          The Honorable Robert Santos  
          U.S. Chief Statistician Karin Orvis