



**FUNDERS CENSUS  
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## KEY 2020 CENSUS MILESTONES<sup>i</sup>

<p><b>2016</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2016 Census Test in parts of Los Angeles County and Harris County, TX (<i>April 1<sup>st</sup> "Census Day"</i>)</li> <li>○ 2016 Address Canvassing Test in parts of Buncombe Co., NC, and St. Louis; final field test of redesigned operation to update and validate the Master Address File and TIGER digital mapping system (<i>October</i>)</li> <li>○ Award contract for 2020 Census Integrated Communications program, which will include the 2020 Census Partnership Program (<i>August</i>)</li> <li>○ Release findings from the 2015 National Content Test, which included final field testing of revised race and ethnicity questions (<i>Fall</i>)<sup>ii</sup></li> <li>○ Begin recruitment and hiring of temporary staff for 2017 Census Tests (<i>Fall</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>2017</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Final decisions on methods to achieve more cost-effective, high-quality census.</li> <li>○ Begin development of communications campaign; focus on audience segmentation model and overall plan.</li> <li>○ Begin Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program, inviting state and local governments to review and update preliminary address lists (<i>ongoing thru 2019</i>)</li> <li>○ Site selection for six Regional Census Centers</li> <li>○ 2017 Census Test on the Colville Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land in Washington State and the Standing Rock Reservation in North and South Dakota, to evaluate special enumeration procedures (<i>Update/Enumerate</i>) used in areas with unique location characteristics, such as nontraditional addressing; 2017 Test also will include urban site (TBA) to refine language assistance program for Limited English Proficient households and Internet response systems (<i>April 1<sup>st</sup> "Census Day"</i>)</li> <li>○ 2017 Puerto Rico Census Test, to be conducted in three <i>municipios</i> in the San Juan metro area (<i>April 1<sup>st</sup> "Census Day"</i>)</li> <li>○ Submit topics for census questions to Congress, as required by the Census Act, by April 1st</li> </ul>
<p><b>2018</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ End-to-End Test to evaluate integration of all IT systems and operations in preparation for the 2020 Census (<i>April 1<sup>st</sup> "Census Day"; site TBD</i>)</li> <li>○ Submit actual census questions to Congress, as required by the Census Act, by April 1st</li> <li>○ Open six Regional Census Centers; site selection for ~250 Area Census Offices (formerly called Local Census Offices) (<i>ongoing</i>)</li> <li>○ Launch 2020 Census Partnership Program; encourage states and localities to form Complete Count Committees (<i>ongoing</i>)</li> </ul>

<p><b>2019</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Print paper census questionnaires (<i>starts in January</i>)</li> <li>○ Staff (management) and open Area Census Offices (<i>rolling basis</i>)</li> <li>○ Conduct “in-field” address canvassing covering 25% of housing units, in areas identified as having significant growth, change, or absence of reliable administrative data/aerial imagery (<i>Spring</i>)</li> <li>○ Begin recruitment for temporary census workforce of ~300,000</li> <li>○ Begin early advertising and promotion targeting hard-to-count communities/populations (<i>Fall</i>)</li> <li>○ Incorporate all revisions to question content and wording, including race/ethnicity questions, into American Community Survey (modern version of census “long form”)</li> </ul>
<p><b>2020</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enumeration starts in remote Alaskan villages (door-to-door interviewing) (<i>Late January</i>)</li> <li>○ Launch national advertising campaign (<i>February</i>)</li> <li>○ Hiring/training of temporary staff for major census field operations (<i>Winter</i>)</li> <li>○ Self-response phase of census (Internet; mail; phone) (<i>mid-March to mid-April, with April 1<sup>st</sup> Census Day</i>)</li> <li>○ Enumeration of transitory and emergency living quarters and homeless population (<i>Late March; conducted over 2-3 nights</i>)</li> <li>○ Enumeration of Group Quarters, such as military barracks, college dorms, nursing homes, prisons; this operation likely to be conducted largely using administrative data (<i>April</i>)</li> <li>○ Nonresponse Follow-up (NRFU) operation, encompassing estimated 50 million occupied housing units that didn’t self-respond (<i>Mid-April thru early June</i>)</li> <li>○ Coverage follow-up and editing procedures; data processing and tabulation (<i>Summer thru fall</i>)</li> <li>○ Census Bureau transmits State population totals and congressional apportionment to the President (<i>Legally required by December 31<sup>st</sup></i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>2021</b> – <b>2022</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Census Bureau transmits redistricting files to each State. The “P.L. 94-171 files” contain block-level data, by race, Hispanic origin, voting age (18+), and gender, as well as housing unit counts. For the first time, the redistricting files will include Group Quarters data (prisons, college dorms, military barracks, etc.). (<i>Flow basis from February thru legal deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup></i>)</li> <li>○ Census Bureau begins releasing basic data sets for all states and smaller levels of geography (<i>Spring</i>)</li> <li>○ Census Bureau releases detailed data sets for all geographic levels, with cross-tabulations by race/ethnicity and other characteristics (<i>ongoing</i>)</li> </ul>

<sup>i</sup> The Census Bureau released the preliminary 2020 Census Operational Plan in October 2015 and continues to refine its final testing and operational schedule. We will update this fact sheet regularly, as information becomes available, to reflect newly defined operations and the detailed schedule for census preparations and implementation. Some references to calendar years might be fiscal years for budgetary purposes. (The federal fiscal year runs from October 1 – September 30.)

<sup>ii</sup> Proposed revisions to the race/Hispanic origin questions *could* trigger an OMB review of the official federal standards for the classification of race and ethnicity, which must go through the formal regulatory process. The Census Bureau tested a new ethnicity category for Americans of Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) origin in the 2015 National Content Test.