



**FUNDERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIC PARTICIPATION**

FUNDERS CENSUS INITIATIVE (FCI)

An FCCP Working Group

Accurate census data are essential for the fair distribution of political representation at the national, state and local levels, and for the fair allocation of government resources. More than \$450 billion federal and state program dollars are distributed to communities annually based on decennial census data. Yet historically, the census has missed disproportionate numbers of racial minorities, immigrants, young children and the poor, leading to inequality in political power, government funding and private-sector investment for these communities. By supporting grantees work on the census, FCI works to achieve a democracy where everyone is counted so everybody counts.



FCI supports grantmakers by

Providing forums for funders to learn, strategize and plan together, including webinars, briefings, convening sessions and in-person meetings

Developing census timelines, updates, fact sheets, analyses and resources to inform your work

Monitoring Census Bureau progress and tracking legislative issues which could impact a fair and accurate count

In 2010, FCI helped mobilize over \$34 million in philanthropic support nationwide for the census. More and earlier grantmaker support is critical in the lead-up to the 2020 Census as the road is filled with both challenges and opportunities that will impact vital decisions which will determine the inclusiveness of the census.

The Funders Census Initiative 2020 (FCI) is committed to stimulating interest in the census among funders and their grantees through outreach, education, resource development, and technical assistance. FCI provides a framework and serves as a clearinghouse for philanthropic support of the census, this decade and beyond.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CENSUS

In addition to determining fair political representation and allocation of government resources, census data are required for implementation and enforcement of most civil rights laws – including the Voting Rights Act and fair housing, education, and employment laws. At least \$415 billion in federal grants are allocated each year based, directly or indirectly, on the American Community Survey (ACS) — the ongoing part of the census and the only source of high-quality, updated socio-economic data for every community and neighborhood in the country.



State governments also distribute public funds to localities using census data, and businesses depend on accurate census and ACS data to make prudent decisions on location, hiring, products and services, and capital investment, while nonprofits rely on the data to identify special community needs and target services. Historically, the census has missed disproportionate numbers of people of color, immigrants, young children (especially Latino and Black children), and low income, low educational attainment, and rural households, leading to a decade of inequity in political power, government funding, and private sector investment for these communities.

Join us as we mobilize the philanthropic effort for a fair and accurate 2020 census count that will help ensure that every community receives its fair share.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit www.FundersCommittee.org to join FCI and access census resources including

- A Current Action Plan and Countdown to the 2020 Census
- Census Updates highlighting public policy debates and Census Bureau progress
- Key census milestones to monitor on Measuring Diversity in America
- Upcoming funder webinars about the 2020 Census
- And much more!

CONTACT

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