

FCCP FUNDERS CENSUS INITIATIVE

KEY 2020 CENSUS MILESTONES

NOTE: The Census Bureau released version 3.0 of the 2020 Census Operational Plan in October 2017 and continues to refine its operational schedule and plans. We will update this fact sheet regularly to reflect newly defined operations and the detailed schedule for census preparations and implementation. The scope and timing of many activities depends on sufficient funding from Congress from year to year. Some references to calendar years might be fiscal years for budgetary purposes. (The federal fiscal year runs from October 1 – September 30.) **Operations/activities of significant interest are highlighted in dark red.**

2018

- 2018 End-to-End Census Test in Providence County, RI, to evaluate integration of all IT systems and operations in preparation for the 2020 Census; self-response phase from March – April; door-to-door follow-up from May – July
- **Submit census questions to Congress, as required by the Census Act, by April 1st**
- **Publish proposed 2020 Census and American Community Survey topics/questions in the Federal Register, with 60-day public comment period (tent. June)**
- Open six Regional Census Centers (May); procure space for Area Census Offices (called Local Census Offices in 2010)
- Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program review/submission: Participating states & localities receive address lists & digital maps for verification and updating (Feb. – June, flow basis)
- Launch 2020 Census Partnership Program; help states and localities form Complete Count Committees; begin education of national “partner” organizations (ongoing)

2019

- **Open and staff 248 Area Census Offices (40 Early ACO’s open Jan. – Feb.; remainder open July – Sept.)**
- Communications Campaign, Phase I (Education): Begin early promotion/education targeting hard-to-count populations (all year)
- **Recruit/hire ~76,000 temporary address listers for targeted Address Canvassing operation (Spring/Summer)**
- **Conduct In-Field Address Canvassing (targeted), covering ~30% of addresses, in areas identified as having significant growth, change, or absence of reliable administrative data/aerial imagery (August –)**
- LUCA Feedback Operation: LUCA participants receive files showing how Census Bureau dispensed with proposed adds or changes (June – August)
- LUCA Appeals Process: LUCA participants can appeal Census Bureau decisions on additions or corrections to their address lists, within 45 days of receiving Feedback materials (Summer 2019 – January 2020)
- **New Construction Program for states/localities to add new living quarters (voluntary program) (April 2019 – January 2020)**
- Finalize electronic versions/print paper census questionnaires and other materials (e.g. invitation letters; reminder postcards) (Spring/Summer)
- **Begin recruitment for temporary census workforce of ~450,000+[1] (Fall)**
- Incorporate all revisions to question content and wording (except race/ethnicity questions, which will occur in 2020 sample) into 2019 American Community Survey (the ongoing part of the decennial census)

Please note: Dates for peak census operations will become more precise as we get closer to 2020

2020

- Enumeration starts in remote Alaskan villages (door-to-door interviewing) (*Late January*)
- Launch national advertising campaign (*Awareness: Jan. – Feb.; Motivate: March – April*)
- Hiring/training of temporary staff for major census field operations (*Winter*)
- Census Questionnaire Assistance (CQA) telephone assistance & response options (*available mid-Jan. – July*) [2]
- **Self-response phase of census (Internet; mail; phone)[3] (Mid-March through early May)**
- **April 1st is Census Day!** (*reference date only*)
- Service-Based Enumeration: enumeration of emergency living quarters and targeted non-shelter outdoor locations (*end of March*)
- Enumeration of Transitory Locations, such as campgrounds, marinas, RV parks, hotels/motels (*March – April*)
- **Enumeration of Group Quarters**, such as military barracks, college dorms, skilled nursing homes, prisons; some of this operation is conducted using administrative data that facilities provide; for other GQs, questionnaires dropped off and collected from some facilities (*GQ Advance Contact – Feb.; GQ enumeration in April*)
- **Update/Enumerate & Update/Leave operations (covering ~12 million homes) in rural and remote areas without reliable or direct mail delivery (tent. March – April; Remote Alaska starts in late Jan.)**
- **Early Nonresponse Follow-up (NRFU) for areas with a lot of off-campus college students (starts April 9th)**
- **Primary NRFU operation, encompassing estimated 55 million occupied housing units that didn't self-respond (May 13th through July)**
- Post Enumeration Survey (PES), an independent sample of census universe to measure accuracy and produce undercount/overcount estimates (*In-person visits, June – Sept.*)
- Coverage follow-up and editing procedures; data processing and tabulation (*Spring – Fall*)
- **Census Bureau transmits State population totals and congressional apportionment to the President (legally required by Dec. 31)**
- Close Area Census Offices by December

2021
+
2022

- **Census Bureau transmits redistricting files to States.** The “P.L. 94-171 files” contain block-level data, by race/ethnicity, voting age (18+), and gender, as well as housing unit counts. For the first time, the redistricting files will include Group Quarters data by type of facility (e.g. prisons, college dorms, military barracks, etc.). TBD: whether/how citizenship data will be included in the files. (*Flow basis from Feb. 2021 thru legal deadline of March 31, 2021*)
- Census Bureau begins releasing basic data sets for all states and smaller levels of geography (*Spring 2021*)
- Census Bureau releases detailed data sets for all geographic levels, with cross-tabulations by race/ethnicity and other characteristics (*ongoing through 2022*)
- Close Regional Census Centers (*by June 2021*)

[1] The estimated number of census takers for peak operations in 2020 has increased, but continues to be in flux. We will update this number as we get more information from the Census Bureau.

[2] CQA also will be used for quality control activities throughout peak operations (outbound calling), ending in early Sept.

[3] Households may continue to self-respond through July, even as the door-knocking phase takes place.

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Updated May 30, 2018