



THE OHIO CENSUS ADVOCACY COALITION

MAKING SURE ALL OHIOANS COUNT

Policy Brief and Recommendations

The Ohio Census Advocacy Coalition (OCAC) calls on the leaders of Ohio to support the efforts by the U.S. Census Bureau for the 2020 Census, to ensure a complete and accurate count of Ohio's populations with a focus on hard-to-count populations.

The U.S. Census Bureau has experienced operational setbacks, funding shortfalls, and contentious litigation. For the first time they are using the Internet to gather Census data which will create additional challenges and have a significant impact on both our rural and urban residents.

It is up to our state leaders and communities to take the necessary steps to prepare and ensure that its residents are provided the best opportunity to participate in the 2020 Census. It's also up to our leaders to ensure a clear and accurate count for the state, this includes providing funding and staff support for Ohio Census efforts and developing communication and outreach materials for the Count.

Why is the census important?

In FY 2016, Ohio received \$33,529,663,507 through 55 federal spending programs guided by data derived from the 2010 Census (Counting for Dollars 2020, The George Washington University).

This included funding for critical programs in the state like:

- Medicaid: \$15,506,012,000
- SNAP: \$2,396,032,919
- Highway Planning and Construction: \$1,429,624,834
- Low-Income Housing: \$516,562,039
- State Children's Health Insurance Program: \$352,648,000
- Foster Care: \$253,550,127
- Transit grants: \$222,568,000
- Business Loans: \$44,707,000

An accurate, complete count in 2020 is critical to the fair distribution of federal funds for the state and its communities.

In 2020, Ohio is already expected to lose a Congressional seat because of a slowdown in population growth. An additional Census undercount in the state could jeopardize losing an additional seat, and continued loss of Ohio political influence in Washington.

Overview of our Hard-to-Count (HTC) Communities

	Ohio's HTC Communities
Live in HTC neighborhoods	1,439,142
Households with no internet access or dial up-only	19.3%
Population reported their races as Black	14%
Population is Hispanic	4%
Children under 5	6%
Population born outside the U.S.	4%
Population in poverty	15%
Population near poverty	18%

Additional Resources

George Washington Institute of Public Policy

Counting for Dollars 2020: The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds

<https://bit.ly/2Q94gvv>

U.S. Census Bureau

Mapping Hard to Count (HTC) Communities for a Fair and Accurate 2020 Census

<https://bit.ly/2K8C5d2>

National Conference of State Legislators

2020 Census Resources and Legislation

<https://bit.ly/2FpBQfS>

The Ohio Census Advocacy Coalition (OCAC) is a nonpartisan network of statewide nonprofit organizations, advocacy organizations, and trusted faith, business, education, and community leaders working to prepare for and conduct outreach to encourage full participation in the 2020 census, with a focus on historically undercounted or "hard-to-count" ("HTC") populations. Learn more at www.ohiocensus.org or contact us at info@ohiocensus.org.

