

CENSUS 2020



Philanthropy Ohio calls on members of Ohio's congressional delegation to ensure an accurate, reliable and fair count of Americans, as required by the U.S. Constitution. We ask you to:

- Fully fund the Census to ensure:
 - a robust, transparent planning process – especially given new elements of the decennial count such as the emphasis on Internet self-response choice, use of administrative records and third-party data and the contact strategies;
 - implementation that gets the count right, including hard-to-reach populations;
- Maintain the \$8.45 billion appropriation to the Census Bureau in the House-passed CJS appropriations bill for FY20, which dedicates \$7.5 billion for the 2020 census;
- Resist efforts to weaken the American Community Survey (ACS), the only source of reliable, high quality, timely community-level data; and
- Ensure the privacy, appropriate use and security of Census data.

Why does Ohio need an accurate, reliable and fair count?

- To assure a fair, proportionate representation in Congress;
- To help community and business leaders plan to address emerging social services, businesses and infrastructure needs;
- To bring adequate federal funding for education, health care, housing, food and income security and rural access to broadband;
- To help funders make good decisions about

where to best allocate their scarce resources; and

- To assist nonprofits to better serve communities.

How funders use Census data

Funders rely on a full, accurate Census count in order to:

- Identify community needs and demographic trends that inform long-term plans and grants;
- Measure impact – which drives many of the foundation's investment decisions; and
- Tell the story of foundation and partner impacts.

To maintain a similar level of accuracy, thoroughness and detail without the decennial count and the ACS, foundations would have to invest significant dollars that would detract from their ability to address critical social and economic issues.

The Nord Family Foundation

The Nord Family Foundation uses the American Community Survey and Census data to drill down by county and city to determine unique community needs for proposals we receive and to inform our trustees of unmet needs or gaps in service. For example, in education, we wanted to know how many degrees were held by Lorain County residents; the ACS tables quickly and easily produced educational attainment data for the county, revealing numbers for high school diploma, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees and Ph.Ds. Without the ACS, we would have to cull through unreliable local data sources to come up with that information.

OHIO CENSUS FAQS



Q: What is the largest threat to an accurate Ohio count?

A: The U.S. Census Bureau is instituting a digital platform to submit census forms, which presents significant issues for Ohio's rural areas where 30 percent of residents lack broadband and internet access.

Q: What population is hardest to count?

A: Young children: in 2010, the Census Bureau estimated that 160,000 Ohio children were not counted, resulting in over \$100 million in lost federal dollars.

Q: What does Ohio stand to lose without a full count?

A: Under current funding figures, Ohio receives \$33.5 billion through 55 federal spending programs which is \$2,880 in federal funds per year for every person counted in the state.

Q: What assistance programs depend on the Census count to bring federal dollars to the state?

A: Some of Ohio's largest funded programs are:

- \$15 billion: Medicaid
- \$3.6 billion: Federal Direct Student Loans
- \$2.4 billion: SNAP
- \$1.4 billion: Highway planning and construction
- \$722 million: Federal Pell Grant Program
- \$517 million: Very low- to moderate-income housing loans
- \$362 million: National School Lunch Program
- \$323 million: Business and Industry Loans
- \$53 million: Rural Electrification Loans and Loan Guarantees

Quick Facts on Ohio from ACS



12%
of Ohio's current population are living in hard-to-count neighborhoods

30%
of Ohioans live in rural communities and lack broadband internet access and dial-up connections

\$52,407 Median household income

