



June 3, 2019

The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chair, 2019-20 Budget Conference Committee
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Philip Ting
Co-Chair, 2019-20 Budget Conference Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Budget Item #0511-001-0255: 2020 Census Outreach

Dear Chair Mitchell and Vice Chair Ting,

The Census Policy Advocacy Network (CPAN) and the undersigned 56 organizations thank the Senate and Assembly budget committees for making census funding a priority and going above and beyond the Governor's proposal. We share your commitment to a fair and accurate census count in 2020 and respectfully ask that, in addition to approving the Governor's May Revision, the conference committee (1) adopt both houses' proposed addition of \$30 million above the May Revision level for census outreach but dedicate \$20 million of that specifically for community-based organizations (CBOs) and (2) adopt the Assembly's version of provisional language allowing the Administration to request additional resources for census mid-year and removing a \$22.5 million cap on such requests. We also urge the committee to ensure that there are appropriate standards for the Administration to use in determining whether an augmentation is warranted.

Adopt the Senate's and Assembly's addition of \$30 million above the May Revision level but dedicate \$20 million specifically for CBO outreach. The need and demand for CBO outreach funding is significantly surpassing the allocated amounts, especially in hard-to-count (HTC) regions like Los Angeles County. CPAN estimates that, using CBO outreach activities (e.g., neighborhood canvassing Questionnaire Assistance Centers, material distribution), educating and encouraging HTC Californians to participate in the 2020 Census is \$120.4 million in total. The state is currently positioned to invest \$42.9 million in CBO outreach. This leaves a gap of \$77.5 million needed to ensure that CBOs have sufficient resources to develop and execute outreach plans in a timely manner. More resources are needed to help close the funding gap.

Adopt the Assembly's version of provisional language allowing the Administration to request additional resources for census mid-year and removing a \$22.5 million cap on such requests. This is so the California Complete Count Census Office (Census Office) has maximum flexibility to respond to a shifting landscape and the identification of program gaps. Over the summer of 2019, the Census Office plans to conduct a "gap analysis" to determine weaknesses in its Statewide Outreach and Communications Strategy. Accordingly, the Census Office is requesting the flexibility to go through the Administration to request up to an additional \$22.5 million to cover any gaps it finds as a result of its analysis. The Assembly's version approves the request but removes the \$22.5 million cap. The conference committee should adopt this version of the provisional language primarily because, in the absence of knowing how wide and/or deep existing gaps are, it is premature to place a cap on the amount the Administration may augment. Furthermore, beyond any gaps found in the current strategy, there are looming and potential issues that may require the Census Office to request more resources. For example, in June, the Supreme Court may rule in favor of keeping a citizenship question on the 2020 Census questionnaire. This would have a chilling effect across immigrant communities in California. Similarly, just as we have seen in the last two years, we could see another significant increase in federal immigration enforcement activities. Lastly, California may also experience further natural disasters that displace large numbers of people. The state needs to be in a position to counter these and other issues; it can do that by making it possible for the Administration to authorize additional investments without, at this point, any cap.

Finally, the committee should ensure that the Administration uses appropriate standards when deciding whether additional investments are warranted. These standards should include but not be limited to the following:



1. In partnerships with nonprofit organizations, the Census Office should conduct a capacity assessment of the nonprofit sector and its reach within each of the 10 regions. These assessments should identify the universe of nonprofits within each region that could participate in census outreach and determine to what extent the number of contracted partners represents the universe of nonprofits, in addition to determining the universe of HTC residents that currently contracted partners could reach. There are at least 92,500 501(c)(3) public charities in California that are embedded in communities across California. The Implementation Planning Workshops (IPWs) could be used as one way of gathering information about how many of those organizations could be involved. It is also important to engage nonprofits that are not contracted partners. California has a large number of nonprofits that are not yet receiving state funding and they may be able to provide vital information for the assessments;
2. The contingency fund should provide flexibility for natural disasters that will create challenges for individuals to participate in the 2020 Census. Relocation, inaccessible or loss of housing will create barriers in reaching these affected populations. Outreach activities must be tailored to be responsive to these emergencies, which would likely result in increased costs and higher need for funding;
3. Any significant increase in federal immigration enforcement activities, or any other federal activity that undermines the public's trust in the confidentiality of the census. These situations include a Supreme Court decision allowing a question about citizenship to be included on the census questionnaire; substantial increase of ICE raids; presidential mandate further infringing on immigrants' rights; anything that may suggest that confidentiality protections will not be respected, or that the federal Administration intends to use census data in an improper way; adoption of a stringent Public Charge proposal, or the Department of Housing and Urban Development's recent housing proposal; and
4. Any significant media reports on cybersecurity issues or data breaches, particularly if they affect government data.

To ensure expedited review of requests for funding, CPAN and the undersigned 56 organizations recommend that the Administration make its augmentation decision within 21 days of receiving a request. The Census Office should then award augmented funding within 14 days of any of the above happening.

We are grateful to the budget staff for making themselves available and for listening to our concerns about the importance of additional census funding in this year's budget. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you and your staff on moving this proposal forward. Please contact Khydeeja Alam Javid with Advancement Project California if you have any questions. She can be reached at kalam@advanceproj.org or 831-245-8391.

Sincerely,

A New Way of Life Reentry Project
A APIs for Civic Empowerment
ACLU of CA
Advancement Project California (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
Alliance for Justice
Antelope Valley Partners for Health
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – California (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
Asian Law Alliance
BWOPA/TILE
California Association of Nonprofits (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
California Black Census and Redistricting Hub (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
California Black Women's Health Project
California Calls (Census Policy Advocacy Network)



California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
California Immigrant Policy Center (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
California Native Vote Project (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
California Partnership
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
Canal Alliance
Child360
Children Now (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
Coalition of OC Community Health Centers
Community Clinic Consortium
Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement
Contra Costa Family Economic Security Partnership
Cope Family Center
Council on American Islamic Relations – California (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
Disability Rights California (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)
Employee Rights Center
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
Equality California (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
First 5 Association of California (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce
Greater Long Beach Interfaith Community Organization
Hmong Innovating Politics
Housing California (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
Human Services Association
Inland Empowerment
InnerCity Struggle
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
Karen Organization of San Diego
Khmer Girls in Action
Kingdom Life Fellowship Church
LA Black Worker Center
LA CAN
LINC Housing
Long Beach Forward
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
Mi Familia Vota Education Fund (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
NALEO Educational Fund (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
NextGen California
ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITIES ORGANIZED FOR RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT
Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA)
Pacoima Beautiful
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans – PANA (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
Peninsula Family Service
Philanthropy California
PICO California (Census Policy Advocacy Network)



Richmond Community Foundation
Rock the Vote
Sacramento Region Community Foundation, Region One ACBO
SAY, San Diego
Shasta Regional Community Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (Census Policy Advocacy Network)
Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Collaborative
Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing
St. John the Baptist Social Services
Starting Over, Inc.
Time for Change Foundation
TODEC LEGAL CENTER
United Cambodian Community
United Women of East Africa Support Team
Warehouse Worker Resource Center

CC: Members, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Members, Assembly Committee on Budget
Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon