

Census 2020 Funding



The WA State Census Alliance is requesting that the state commit \$15 million for the 2019 - 2021 biennium (\$7.5 million per year)

The Census results determine how much federal funding is allocated to each state, amounting to almost \$14 billion in education, healthcare, and transportation projects, to name a few areas of investment, as well as how congressional and state legislative districts are drawn. Census data is used among all sectors, and levels of government to determine how to serve Washington communities best and plan for the future.

Unfortunately, due to the fear-based policies under the current administration, Census 2020 is at grave risk for severe undercounting, which may undoubtedly jeopardize funding for critical services that Washingtonians rely on. Washington State stands to lose \$19,000 for every person not counted.

In the 2010 Census, 4.5% of Washington State's population was omitted, a loss of approximately \$5.5 billion in federal funding. With more barriers ahead of us this decennial, in the forms of census budget cuts, digital divide, and the citizenship question, it is imperative that the State invests in community-based and trusted messengers, that can effectively educate and perform outreach to ensure a fair and complete count in historically undercounted communities.

We are requesting that the state commit \$15 million for the 2019 - 2021 biennium to invest in community-focused infrastructure that will strengthen statewide efforts around the Census and enhance community-led efforts that are focused on historically under-counted communities via the Washington Census Alliance.

Investing in the efforts of the Washington Census Alliance will ensure that the organizations with the right expertise and who are trusted messengers in historically undercounted communities, have the staffing and support needed to fully engage their communities around the 2020 Census. Combined with support from the philanthropic community, State dollars could be leveraged to support the outreach work of over 120 community-based organizations.

Just a .25% decrease in the omission rate, achieved by investments in community-focused outreach and education, would represent a difference of approximately \$350 million in federal funding (over 10 years).

\$15 million is a smart investment by Washington State, that will result in huge returns for Washington's schools and infrastructure, along with many other departments.



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