



February 22, 2019

Dear _____:

Created in early 2018, New York Counts 2020 is the largest growing, statewide coalition of more than 150 diverse organizations - racial, immigrant, faith-based, civic, business, labor, health, housing, education, child advocacy groups and libraries - seeking a fair and accurate census. Together, we serve millions of New Yorkers.

Last Fall, Fiscal Policy Institute published a report about how much it would cost to conduct a statewide robust community based effort to “get out the count”. FPI concluded it would take \$40 million to get the job done.

We call on you, as a New York State elected officials, to stand up for your constituents and for all New Yorkers, by signing the attached letter in support of \$40 million for community based census outreach. This is a win-win situation for New York State.

- A census undercount threatens the state’s ability to provide critically needed programs for all New Yorkers. For 16 major federal funding programs alone, New York State receives \$53 billion annually from the federal government whose funding is determined at least in part by the census count.
- The role of community-based organizations (CBO’s) is critical to avoid a significant undercount that could cost New York up to two congressional districts and impact federal, state, and local fair representation. 2020 is the first time residents can complete the census survey online. The vicious, anti-immigrant rhetoric that has escalated uncontrollably by the federal administration has fueled great distrust of government. CBO’s have earned the trust of the community and have the cultural and language competence to reach hard-to-count communities to assist them in completing the census, but they need funding to do so.
- Millions of New Yorkers benefit from approximately 300 federally funded programs based on Census results. Loss of any of these benefits will last an entire decade. These programs range from basic housing, child nutrition, to schools. Not to mention funding for maintaining, repairing, and improving our outdated transportation systems.

- Census data must be accurate. Businesses, hospitals and state, county, and city planners rely on census data to keep New York's economy growing, New York residents healthy, and our institutions strong.

In addition to signing on to the attached letter, we ask that you publicly indicate your support for the \$40 million ask in a social media post prior to April 1, 2019 as well as in person to the leader of your legislative body.

Sincerely,

New York Counts 2020 member organizations:

32BJ SEIU
 67th Precinct Clergy Council/God Squad
 Academy of Medical and Public Health Services
 ACCESS of WNY
 African Communities Together
 AJC NY
 American Immigration Lawyers Association
 ANHD
 Arab American Association of New York
 Asian American Federation
 Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
 BACDYS
 Black Lives Matter Brooklyn
 Brooklyn Community Foundation
 Brooklyn NAACP
 Brooklyn Public Library
 Brooklyn Progressive Alliance
 Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College
 CHHAYA CDC
 Chinese-American Planning Council
 Chinese Progressive Association
 Christopher Rose Community Empowerment Campaign
 Cidadao Global
 Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
 Citizens Union
 Civilian Observation Patrol of East Flatbush
 Columbia SIPA Civic and Voter Engagement Coalition
 Community Service Society of New York

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Community Voices Heard
Data Union
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. East Kings County Alumnae Chapter
DRUM
DSI International
Ernest Skinner Political Association
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
Fiscal Policy Institute
Goddard Riverside Community Center
Harlem Neighborhood Block Association
Health and Welfare Council of Long Island
Holcombe Rucker Community League
Human Services Council of New York
Humanities New York
Indivisible Nation BK
Indo-Caribbean Alliance
Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House
Japanese American Social Services, Inc.
JCC Harlem
Jewish Community Relations Council of New York
Korean Community Service of Metropolitan New York
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Lenox Hill Neighborhood Houses
Literacy Assistance Center
Liverpool Public Library
LSA Family Health Service
Manny Cantor Center
Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan
Masa
Mid-Hudson Library System
MinKwon Center for Community Action
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund
New York Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
New York Branch NAACP
New York Housing Conference
New York Immigration Coalition
New York Library Association
New York Public Library
New York Portuguese American Leadership Conference

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New York State Community Action Association
New York State Hispanic Court Officers Society
Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson
Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation
OCA-NY
Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow
continued)
Patterson Library
Planned Parenthood of New York City
Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts
Rochester Regional Library Council
Russian-speaking Community Council, Inc.
Queens Library
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
Southeast Bronx Neighborhood Centers
St. Nick's Alliance
Sunnyside Community Services
Syracuse Northeast Community Center
The Door
Tiny Panther Consulting
UJA-Federation of New York
United Neighborhood Houses
University Settlement
Vision Urbana
Westchester Library System
Women's City Club of NY
Workers Center of Central New York
YMCA of Greater New York
Young Invincibles