

# Jefferson Community Collaborative

## 2020 Census Overview

### Why is the Census Important for the Jefferson Area?

The Constitution requires a count of everyone living in the United States, regardless of age, immigration status, language spoken, etc. The goal is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. However, conducting an accurate count has proved challenging: the 2010 Census missed an estimated 1.5 million people nationwide, including 21% of people in Allegheny County – enumerators had to complete extra follow up with these individuals to ensure they were counted.

The Jefferson Area constitutes nearly 20% of Allegheny County’s population, so our area is impactful. Historically, some communities have been more likely to be missed in the count:

- Children (specifically ages 0-5)
- Immigrants
- People of Color
- Rural Households
- Low-Income Households
- Students at Local Colleges & Universities

### Changes to the 2020 Census Increase Difficulty for an Accurate Count in the Jefferson Area

- **Digital Divide:** The Census Questionnaire will be moving online for the first time, which could pose issues for older adults.
  - 19% of Jefferson Area Adult Population is over 65
- **Decreased Funding:** Less resources available to fund outreach efforts
- **Potential Citizenship Question:** Not included in a Census questionnaire since 1950, some believe this could suppress the 2020 count, particularly among immigrant communities.
  - 40% of Allegheny County’s refugee population reside in the Jefferson area

### How Does the 2020 Census Impact Us?

Representation	Resources	Supports
<div data-bbox="337 1331 451 1461" data-label="Image"> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directly impacts how new PA state house and senate districts in the Commonwealth are redrawn in 2021</li> <li>• PA could lose one or more of our 18 representatives in the U.S. House, which would also mean the loss of one or more of our 20 electoral votes</li> </ul>	<div data-bbox="740 1331 854 1470" data-label="Image"> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PA receives over \$26 billion in annual funding from the 16 largest federal programs that rely on Census data</li> <li>• These resources support schools, hospitals, infrastructure and community-based services</li> </ul>	<div data-bbox="1117 1352 1279 1444" data-label="Image"> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helps us understand our communities: where people live, languages they speak, education levels, income levels, family makeup, racial identity, etc.</li> <li>• Helps leaders &amp; businesses identify emerging problems and opportunities, and plan good investments</li> </ul>

## Allegheny County & City of Pittsburgh Complete Count Committee

Allegheny County & the City of Pittsburgh have created a Complete Count Committee (CCC), comprised of a broad spectrum of government and community leaders to:

- Represent trusted voices from a variety of sectors (including philanthropy, education, business, healthcare, human services, etc.)
- Create and implement awareness and activation campaigns to encourage Census participation

## Next Steps for Jefferson Community Collaborative

- Andrea Stanford (Allegheny County Staff to the Complete Count Committee) to speak about Census at January 23<sup>rd</sup> Collaborative Meeting
- JRF Foundation Grants Committee is willing to provide support for the Vision Council and Collaborative to develop a local plan for Census 2020 Count
- Jefferson Area Census Leadership Team meeting in February 2019 to begin developing local outreach plan
- Once Jefferson Area Census Plan is defined, Collaborative's Community Engagement Team will help provide implementation guidance

## Resources

- Allegheny County Complete Count Committee, 2020 Census Overview Presentation
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice ([www.advancingjustice-aaajc.org/census](http://www.advancingjustice-aaajc.org/census))
- Forbes Funds Annual Meeting & Policy Summaries ([www.forbesfunds.org/budgets#Summaries](http://www.forbesfunds.org/budgets#Summaries))
- Keystone Counts ([www.keystonecounts.org](http://www.keystonecounts.org))
- Pennsylvania Voice ([www.pennsylvaniavoice.org](http://www.pennsylvaniavoice.org))

This overview was prepared by the Jefferson Community Collaborative



Learn More at:

[www.jeffersonrf.org/jefferson-community-collaborative](http://www.jeffersonrf.org/jefferson-community-collaborative)