

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
 - Number of local Census Bureau centers cut in half
- **Complexity:** Confusion around changes to this Census may affect participation (i.e. pending litigation on citizenship question, digital divide, etc.)
 - 40% of Allegheny County’s refugee population reside in the Jefferson area

How Does the 2020 Census Impact Us?

Pennsylvania is particularly vulnerable – if an undercount occurs, PA is ranked second nationally in:

- the amount of dollars that could be lost per person missed, and
- total federal funds that would be lost per year.

Representation	Resources	Supports
 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directly impacts how new PA state house and senate districts in the Commonwealth are redrawn in 2021• 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	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PA receives over \$26 billion in annual funding from the 16 largest federal programs that rely on Census data• These resources support schools, hospitals, infrastructure and community-based services	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helps us understand our communities: where people live, languages they speak, education levels, income levels, family makeup, racial identity, etc.• Helps leaders & businesses identify emerging problems and opportunities, and plan good investments

16 Large PA Programs Which Distribute Funds Based on Census Data (\$26 billion annually)

Medicaid Assistance Program (Medicaid) \$16M	Medicare Part B (Supplemental Medical Insurance) \$2.6B	Highway Planning and Construction \$1.6B	Title 1 Grants to Local Education \$549.7M
Special Education Grants \$421.3M	Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program \$371.7M	State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) \$371.1M	National School Lunch Program \$351.7M
Head Start/Early Head Start \$286M	Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) \$206.6M	Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) \$202M	Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers \$610.1M
Child Care & Development Fund-Entitlement \$116M	Health Center Programs (Community, Migrant, Homeless, Public Housing) \$113M	Foster Care \$159M	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) \$2.6B

Creating a Jefferson Area Census Outreach Plan

- Jefferson Regional Foundation has organized a Jefferson Area Census Leadership Team to promote local Census participation
- The Team has met several times already this Spring to develop a Jefferson Area Census Plan
- Collaborative Member Organizations will help implement the outreach strategies outlined in this plan

State & County Partners

To avoid any duplication of outreach efforts, Jefferson Regional Foundation staff and Census Team Leaders are communicating with other state and county partners including:

- Complete Count Committee: Allegheny County and City of Pittsburgh's Census Planning Team
- Keystone Counts: Pennsylvania statewide advocacy coalition
- Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership: Census Engagement Training Series
- Other funders: Grantmakers of Western PA briefings

Resources

- Allegheny County Complete Count Committee, 2020 Census Overview Presentation
- Funders Census Initiative (<https://funderscommittee.org/working-group/4/>)
- Forbes Funds Annual Meeting & Policy Summaries (www.forbesfunds.org/budgets#Summaries)
- Keystone Counts (www.keystonecounts.org)
- George Washington Institute of Public Policy (<https://gwipp.gwu.edu/counting-dollars-2020-role-decennial-census-geographic-distribution-federal-funds>)

Learn more about the Jefferson Regional Foundation
& Jefferson Community Collaborative at
www.jeffersonrf.org