



# 2020 CENSUS FACT SHEET

## FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS

### Census Overview

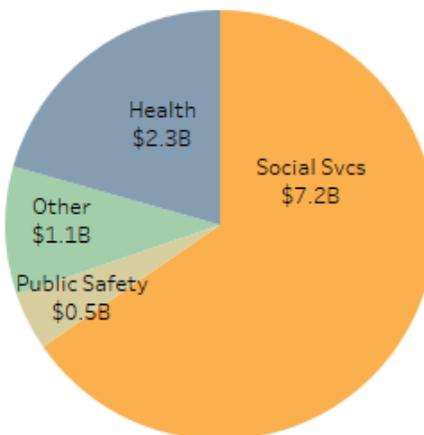
#### Purpose and Impact

The United States Constitution mandates that every 10 years the federal government count all persons living in the country through the decennial census. This information is used to determine how many federal dollars flow to each state for a variety of critical programs, including:

- Health Care
- Social Services
- Transportation
- Public Safety
- and more

**California receives over \$76 billion dollars for more than 70 programs** based on 2010 Census data. In addition, Congressional seats are allocated based on census information. Other stakeholders rely on the census data to understand demographics and changing service needs.

Federal Funds Directed to Counties



Total = \$11.1 billion. "Other" includes road funding, disaster aid, payments in lieu of taxes, forest reserve revenue, economic development, and senior programs, amongst others.

#### Timing

While the next census won't begin collecting responses until the spring of 2020, **action is already underway** at the federal, state, and local level to ensure local communities are ready and motivated to participate. In California, the State has dedicated nearly \$100 million to support 2020 Census outreach and implementation.

#### Role of Federal and State Government

Each level of government has unique and distinct roles in the census. While the federal government determines the content, timing, and methodology for collecting information, the State has flexibility in conducting outreach, engaging with stakeholders and targeting critical areas.

#### Role of Counties

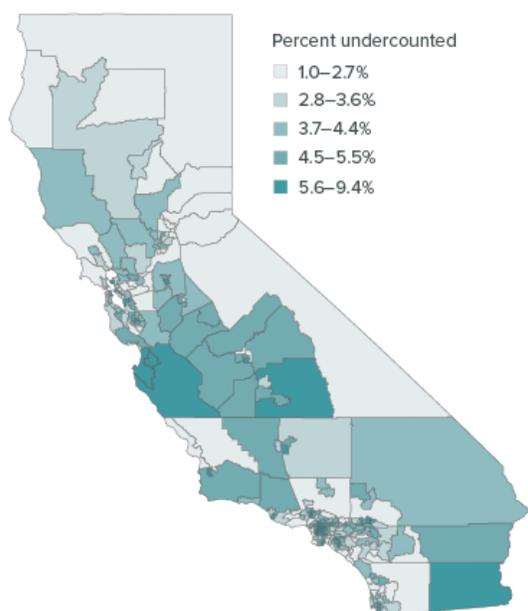
Counties are not mandated by state or federal statute to complete specific actions as part of the census. However, given the significant amount of programmatic funding determined by the outcome, it is **imperative that counties find meaningful ways to engage with their local communities** to ensure an accurate and complete count of all residents. Counties serve as:

- **EDUCATORS** about the importance of the census for securing funding for local services and needs.
- **MESSENGERS** who are trusted to relay critical information to stakeholders and community members about the role of the census, the use of the data, and safety of personal information.
- **CONVENORS** of other local stakeholders (cities, schools, and community-based groups) through the establishment of formal Complete Count Committees and by holding community gatherings and events.
- **ADMINISTRATORS** of funding made available by the state to achieve the complete count goal, working in coordination with community-based organizations and targeted media.

## Challenges for California

California faces major challenges given the large “hard to count” (HTC) population in counties throughout the state and changes to the methodologies set forth by the federal Census Bureau to conduct the census. The **State and local governments are working to overcome these obstacles** and avoid an undercount that could lead to diminished funding and even a lost Congressional seat. Challenges include:

- **Hard to Count (HTC) Communities** – California has a one of the highest hard to count populations in the nation. These are individuals who are historically undercounted including but not limited to Latinos, African Americans, immigrants, children, and renters.
- **Citizenship Question** – The 2020 Census will include a question about citizenship, which could deter immigrants regardless of status or deter entire households who may have family members of varied documentation status from participation.



Source: Public Policy Institute of California  
<http://www.ppic.org/map/2020-census-maps-californias-hard-to-count-communities/>

- **Digital Census** – The federal government is relying more heavily on digital resources to offset rising administrative costs. However, this could create issues for rural counties who may not have reliable internet connectivity or for households who do not have online access.
- **Language Barriers** – The online Census form and telephone Census assistance will be provided in 12 languages other than English while the paper form will be in English and Spanish only. In California there are more than 200 non-English languages spoken.
- **Data Security** – While significant steps are taken to protect the privacy of data collected, doubt may remain among some participants about personal information being used for non-census related purposes or accessed by other agencies, such as law enforcement.

## Resources Available

CSAC is working with state agencies, legislative leadership, and other stakeholders to provide resources and information to assist counties in their local census efforts.

### Funding

The Budget Act of 2018 provides \$90.3 million in Census funding for the fiscal year with allocations for each county based on total population and percentage of hard to count residents. Counties are allocated nearly \$27 million for their efforts with additional indirect regional support from community-based organizations, coordinated media, and state regional managers throughout California.

### Resources

More information about the 2020 Census can be found online at:

- **California State Association of Counties**  
<http://www.counties.org/2020-census>
- **California Complete Count – 2020 Census**  
<https://census.ca.gov/>
- **U.S. Census Bureau**  
[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)