



2020 CENSUS UPDATE AND IMMEDIATE ASKS (JULY 26, 2020)

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION NEEDED

- **Require an extended Nonresponse Followup (NRFU) operation and mandate collection of Census responses through October 31, 2020.**
- **Extend the deadline for delivery of apportionment to the President to April 30, 2021 and extend the deadline for delivery of redistricting data to July 31, 2021.**
- **Ensure that the Census Bureau delivers regular updates on 2020 Census operations and progress, providing full and transparent reporting to Congress and the public regarding the state of the census until the end of the NRFU operation on October 31, 2020.**

STATUS OF 2020 CENSUS FOR HTC POPULATIONS

Communities of color are lagging behind on Census response rates. As of July 24, 2020, the national self-response rate was 62.4%. Recent data indicates that the average self-response rates of HTC populations are lower than white census tract. Census tracts comprised predominately of people of color lag as follows: Asian (2%), Hispanic (11%), Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (12%), Black (14%), and American Indian/Alaska Native (25%).

NRFU DELAYED DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

NRFU delays will likely harm response rates from communities of color. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census Bureau is operating under a schedule that extends the 2020 Census until October 31, 2020. The pandemic also delayed the start of the NRFU until August 11, 2020. Historically, NRFU has been critical to eliciting participation of historically undercounted communities. However, rising rates of COVID-19 infections could potentially impact the effectiveness of the NRFU operation, leading to a significant undercount of HTC populations.

The Census Bureau and the Administration earlier petitioned Congress to extend the delivery of census data to the President until April 30, 2021 and the delivery of redistricting data to the states until July 31, 2021. These extensions allow for a full and robust (NRFU).

EXCLUSION OF UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS

On July 21st, President Trump issued an **executive memorandum to exclude undocumented persons in the apportionment process**. This memorandum is blatantly unconstitutional and is already being challenged in court. Advocates believe that this action is merely another scare tactic (similar to the proposed and defeated citizenship question) that is designed to discourage the participation of communities of color, immigrants, and refugees.

ERASURE OF PEOPLE OF COLOR

High risk of “imputation” likely if Census Bureau cuts timing of NRFU and data collection. When there are low self-response rates in historically undercounted communities, the Census Bureau may rely on administrative records, which are not as accurate as self-response data.

However, when administrative records are not available, **the Census Bureau could implement a more inaccurate statistical practice of “imputation”, which estimates the demographics of a household based on the characteristics of nearby households**. This process can be extremely detrimental to communities of color in gentrified areas or in areas where people of color are in the minority, as the practice would treat those areas as comprised of a higher white population than is actual.