Dear Partners,

As you may know, the 2020 Census is fast approaching, and an undercount in New Jersey may lead to less federal funding, less representation for low-income communities, and less understanding of who makes up our communities. The Council for New Jersey Grantmakers recently held its annual conference to discuss the challenges of the upcoming Census (more info [here](https://www.cnjg.org/events/2019SpringConference) and [here](https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/06/11/census-2020-innovation-could-boost-participation-but-it-wont-come-cheap/)).

Nearly $23 billion in federal funds are allocated through decennial Census counts, including: Medicaid, Medicare, school meals, Title I schools, special education funding, highway grants, health care center funding, Pell Grants, and Section 8 housing. (For a list of programs affected by Census counts, see [here](https://gwipp.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs2181/f/downloads/IPP-1819-3%20CountingforDollars_NJ.pdf).)

The Census has added challenges in 2020. This is the first year the Census will be completed primarily online. Additionally, there is continued distrust of the federal government and concern about data security and confidentiality.

The Census 2020 New Jersey Coalition is coordinating nonprofit Census work throughout New Jersey. The Census outreach website ([census2020nj.org](http://census2020nj.org/)) has more information on the importance of the Census and materials/resources for people interested in learning more.

Local community-based and nonprofit organizations, like some of those you are affiliated with, can help in a few key ways:

1. [Join the Census 2020 NJ Coalition](https://docs.google.com/forms/u/2/d/1DOcxIGrpbALHgciVE8eZRj0b83yMDLDl0Pr0_POSF8Y/edit?usp=forms_home&ths=true). Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) is coordinating Census outreach to nonprofits across the state. Nonprofits can join the coalition to receive updates, information and action items as key deadlines approach.
2. Become a Census Partner. The U.S. Census Bureau provides information, training, job hiring, and other resources for local organizations that participate in their partnership program. You can sign up to [receive updates here](https://www.census.gov/partners/join.html).
3. Participate in a local Complete Count Committee. Many local areas are creating "Complete Count Committees" usually organized by local government. Email Peter Chen, coordinator for the Census 2020 NJ Coalition at pchen@acnj.org to learn if there is a CCC in your community and how you can participate.
4. Serve as a Census hub in your community. In less than 10 minutes, residents can fill out the Census online or over the phone. This means that any site can help provide education and reach hard-to-count people in 2020. This should be coordinated through a local complete count effort.
5. Get organized. The statewide nonprofit coalition is organizing trainings on the Census throughout the state for community and local groups and coalitions. If you would like to organize a training or education session for your community, contact Peter Chen at pchen@acnj.org .

Any effort to educate and build capacity for the 2020 Census count will assist in ensuring New Jersey has the resources it needs to support all its residents.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Peter Chen (pchen@acnj.org).

Thank you.