

Recommendation

- **Invest \$40 million in community-based outreach around the 2020 Census** to ensure a fair, accurate, and complete count for New York State.

Community Need and Opportunity

- In 2015, **New York received \$53,194,672,345** for major programs such as Medicaid, Medicare Part B, Section 8 housing, Title 1 Grants, Highway Planning and Construction, and SNAP. These and other Federal mandatory and discretionary grants account for approximately one third of State spending.
- An undercount of New York's population jeopardizes these programs and may result in significant funding reductions.
- The census is the only population count used for **redistricting** of Congressional, state, and local district lines.
- New York may lose **one House of Representatives seat**, and could **lose two** with a low count.
- A robust economy depends on an accurate census. Businesses use the census to make decisions about where to create new jobs, build new offices, and invest in communities.
- Our quality of life depends on an accurate census. City planning agencies use census data to decide where to build new infrastructure and provide community services such as roads, public transit, hospitals, health centers, schools, and senior centers.

Challenges Facing the 2020 Census

- The Census Bureau plans to add a citizenship question, which will lower self-response rates from immigrant and immigrant-adjacent communities. **New York State's 2016 estimated non-citizen population is 10.26% representing 2,020,397 of the state's 19,697,457 residents.**
- For the first time, the census will be conducted primarily through online responses. In 2016, **18.3% of New York's households** had either no Internet subscriptions or dial up-only access.
- The Census Bureau has been at its lowest funding level at this point in the decade than at any other time in the past several decades. The Census Bureau might not have enough funds to conduct the census.

Community-Based Organizations Are the Solution

- Populations particularly at risk of being undercounted include immigrants, people with limited English, people of color, Muslims, low-income residents, renters, young parents, Native Americans, and homeless residents.
- Community-based organizations are uniquely positioned to assist and reach the hardest-to-count groups because of their earned trust and cultural and language competence.
- Community-based organizations can also encourage the critical institutions they have strong relationships with, like hospitals and schools, to ensure more New Yorkers are included in the count.