



## Funding the 2030 Census and ACS in Fiscal Year 2027

It takes a decade to execute the decennial census, and Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) is a critical year in the decade-long ramp-up to the 2030 Census.

In less than four years, the Census Bureau will start the 2030 headcount in remote Alaska, the U.S. government's largest peacetime civilian mobilization.

In FY 2027, among other decennial activities, the Census Bureau needs to:

- analyze the results of the 2026 Census Test;
- finalize testing of census operations, methods, and question wording/format;
- determine the use of administrative records and automation;
- refine cost models and workforce estimates;
- submit topics to be covered in the 2030 Census and [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) to Congress by April 1, 2027 (per Title 13, U.S.C.);
- start the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) operation (per Title 13, U.S.C.), allowing tribal, state and local governments to share address lists and maps with the Bureau to help ensure universal coverage and limit costly field address canvassing;
- finalize residence criteria and residence situation, which impacts how to count residents of group quarters (dormitories, retirement homes, prisons, etc.); and
- build the communications & partnership program to help Get Out the Count.

Census Bureau funding in **FY26** was \$1.49 billion (less than the President's-requested and House-approved \$1.6765 billion). Funding levels in **FY25** and **FY24** were \$1.38 billion.

**Underfunding now drives errors later:** Short-changing testing and preparation for the 2030 Census now could hurt the accuracy of the count while dramatically driving up the cost.

The 2020 Census had a [life cycle cost of \\$13.7 billion](#). Multiple government shutdowns and continuing resolutions, along with insufficient funding in FY12-17, required the Bureau to cancel almost all field testing, particularly in rural and remote areas and on native reservations. That led to net undercounts of 5.64 percent on American Indian reservations and 2.58 percent in rural/remote areas.

**The Insights Association, representing the insights, market research and analytics industry, urges [at least \\$2.11 billion](#) for the Census Bureau in FY27. The Trump Administration requested \$2.01 billion for FY27.**

- Mustering sufficient resources in FY27 will lower the risk of unplanned emergency funding at the end of the decade.
- Accurate Census data underpin every statistically-representative study in the U.S., including other government surveys. The trickle-down impact of an inaccurate 2030 Census would be severe -- and impair decision-making in the public and private sectors for a whole decade.
- Census data determines the geographic distribution of more than \$2 trillion in federal funding per year, as well as Congressional apportionment.