

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 23, 2019

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Dear Mayors,

I am writing to you today to increase awareness of the 2020 Census. With the 2020 Census only months away, it is crucial that we emphasize the need for census participation within our communities. To achieve this, I ask that you support or consider the formation of a local Complete Count Committee in your town.

Complete Count Committees consist of volunteers participating in outreach efforts with the goal of increasing census participation. As you may know, Census data is used to reapportion and set boundaries for congressional and legislative seats, allocate over \$800 billion in federal funds, and help determine the locations of hospitals, roads and schools in communities across the country. During the 2010 Census, response rates in New Jersey were very low in some hard-to-count communities. This likely resulted in the state being shortchanged millions of federal dollars and directly impacted congressional representation in Washington.

With so much at stake, we need to make a concerted effort to ensure that hard-to-count communities and systematically undercounted groups, such as children under the age of five, Hispanic/Latinos, African Americans, and Asians/Asian Americans, be appropriately counted. To this end, the US Census is in the process of hiring tens of thousands of temporary workers and has implemented new response methods to allow residents to reply to the Census survey online, by phone or mail. Job application information is available at: <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html>.

Additionally, to promote Census participation, the State of New Jersey has made funding available for counties and nonprofit organizations. Counties are eligible for up to \$450,000 in funding, while nonprofit groups can apply for up to \$50,000. Applications for these grants are due on October 31, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Additional information may be found at: <https://nj.gov/state/njcounts.shtml>.

I hope that you will consider supporting or implementing a Complete Count Committee within your community to help us strengthen our democracy and government through an accurate counting of the people we serve. Feel free to contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress