

January 2019

What is the Census?

Every ten years the federal government is responsible for conducting a census that generates an accurate count of all persons living in the United States, Puerto Rico, and all other U.S. territories. A precise count is vital to guaranteeing each state receives the appropriate number of seats in the House of Representatives, it influences how states draw their legislative districts, and it ensures communities across the country receive proper funding for a host of important programs that help families make ends meet. There are sixteen well known federal programs that distribute funds specifically using data collected from the census ¹ including:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicare Part B
- Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers
- National School Lunch Program
- Special Education Grants (IDEA)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

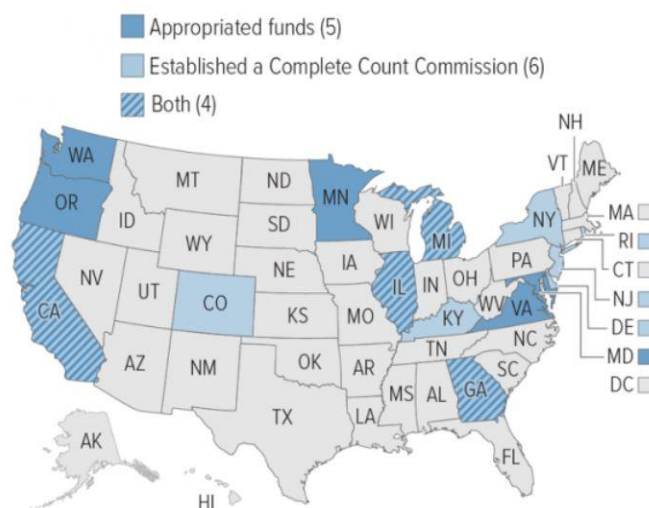
As of fiscal year 2015, Colorado received more than \$8 billion in census-based federal funds for these programs and many others.²

Census 2020

The upcoming 2020 census is in jeopardy as inadequate funding and an untested citizenship question threaten participation and an accurate count of all people, particularly those in hard-to-count communities. With as much as \$600 billion in federal funding at stake, several states have appropriated state dollars and created Complete Count Committees (CCC) to ensure an accurate count in 2020. CCCs are volunteer groups created by state and local governments, community groups, and/or organizations focused on increasing awareness and participation in the census through “trusted community messengers”.³

Colorado's Complete Count Campaign is currently seeking volunteers to support the 2020 census. Advocates across the state are partnering to ensure an accurate count of all Coloradans, especially hard-to-count communities such as people of color, young children, people in rural Colorado, immigrants, and people experiencing homelessness.⁴

15 States Have Taken Action Towards a Complete 2020 Census Count



Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

¹ https://gwipp.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs2181/f/downloads/Counting%20for%20Dollars%202020%2008-22-17_0.pdf

² Ibid.

³ https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/59fb4f76691c1b000103c309/5ac690b856b2db257820afb2_CCC%20Training%20Manual%20D-1255--draft.pdf

⁴ For more information and resources visit to <http://togetherwecount.org/>