



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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CITY OF CHICAGO GRANTS \$700K TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO BOOST PARTICIPATION IN THE 2020 U.S. CENSUS

CHICAGO—Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot today announced \$700,000 in grant funding for 32 community-based organizations to support the City's efforts in educating and engaging residents about the upcoming 2020 U.S. Census. The City partnered with Forefront's IL Count Me In 2020 initiative to disperse a portion of its \$2.7 million Census investment – the largest amount of funding Chicago has ever committed to the Census – to grant funding for community organizations. These grant funds will be used to support targeted community outreach and other initiatives to help increase Census participation for hard-to-count communities. The City of Chicago contributed \$500,000 toward this community outreach effort, Uber provided an additional \$100,000, the Illinois Department of Aging contributed \$75,000 and the McCormick Foundation contributed \$25,000.

Grant funds will be used by organizations for outreach within the City's hardest-to-count community areas. Awardees will leverage grant dollars for community events, social media campaigns, accessible materials, and other on-the-ground outreach designed to build awareness and activate Chicago residents to complete the 2020 Census.

"Achieving a full and fair count in the upcoming census is critical to determining the necessary federal funding levels for our city, appropriate representation in Congress, and securing the continued strength of our regional economy," said Mayor Lightfoot. "These grants stand as a vital tool to supporting Chicago's many passionate and committed community partners who will be on the ground and working hard to include all our residents in this important process, and ensuring every voice is heard, felt and accounted for."

A list of organizations that received funding, along with their respective communities served, can be found below:

ORGANIZATION	COMMUNITY
Center for Changing Lives	Humboldt Park
Center on Halsted	Citywide
Chicago Veterans	Citywide
Claretian Associates	South Chicago
Community Organizing and Family Issues	Humboldt Park, Englewood
Faith in Place	North Lawndale, Englewood



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Fathers Who Care	West Garfield, East Garfield
Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corp.	Englewood
Hanul Family Alliance	Citywide
I AM ABLE Center for Family Development Inc.	North Lawndale
Institute for Positive Living	Washington Park
Japanese American Service Committee	Asian American Community
Latin United Community Housing Association	Lower West Side, West Englewood
Leave No Veteran Behind	Citywide
Metropolitan Tenants Organization	Lower West Side, South Chicago
Midwest Asian Health Association	Citywide
Muslim Community Inc	Citywide
Northwest Side Housing Center	Citywide
Peace and Education Coalition	New City
Puerto Rican Cultural Center	Humboldt Park
Red Clay Dance Company	Fuller Park, Englewood
Resident Association of Greater Englewood	Englewood, West Englewood
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference	West Garfield, New City, Washington Park
Sinai Community Institute	Humboldt Park, North Lawndale, South Lawndale
South Asian American Policy and Research Institute	Citywide
Spanish Coalition for Housing	Lower West Side, South Chicago
St. Paul Church	Lower West Side
STM Reader LLC (The Chicago Reader)	Citywide
Teamwork Englewood	Englewood, West Englewood
United African Organization	Citywide
Westside Health Authority	West Garfield, East Garfield
Workers Center for Racial Justice NFP	Citywide

“It has been an honor to work closely with Mayor Lightfoot’s team and the City of Chicago to ensure these funds support communities not yet reached through our statewide Illinois Count Me In 2020 Funders’ Collaborative, state funding, or funding from Cook County,” said Forefront President and CEO Eric Weinheimer. “These grantees have demonstrated a clear commitment to educating and activating their communities around a complete count. Forefront looks forward to supporting these grantees as we prepare for Illinois’ Census count this spring.”

Nearly half of Chicago’s 2.7 million residents are considered “hard-to-count” by the U.S. Census Bureau. This includes families of color, children under five, the elderly, veterans, returning residents, individuals with high rates of mobility and housing instability, residents with disabilities, those with limited access to the Internet, and those who may be afraid to participate.

An accurate count is vital for Chicago as it determines whether the City receives an appropriate level of representation in Congress, as well as the funding that is instrumental



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to maintaining infrastructure, public safety, public health, and other City services. Funding for many programs benefitting Chicagoans is allocated based on the Census, including Medicaid, Head Start, SNAP, Section 8, Title I and Special Education Grants. The City of Chicago stands to lose \$1,400 each year for every resident missed in 2020, with other adverse implications in redistricting.

To learn more about the City's 2020 Census efforts, please visit census2020.chicago.gov to find up-to-date information on how to participate in the census, city resources aiding to ensure a full count, and what's at stake for next year's count. Follow the City's census efforts on Twitter and Instagram at @ChiCounts2020, and search #ILCountMeIn2020 for updates on Forefront's IL Count Me In 2020 initiative.

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