



CENSUS 2020

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR WASHINGTON

In Fiscal Year 2015 (October 2014-September 2015), Washington received \$13.7 billion of federal funds (or \$1,914 per person) based on census-derived funds. In FY 2016 (October 2015-September 2016), that number jumped to \$16.7 billion (or \$2,319/person).

These funds cover a wide array of programs (more than 300) in areas, including health, education, and infrastructure, including:

- Almost \$1 billion in transportation planning and construction
- \$8.5 billion for health programs
- \$2.4 billion for education (K-12 and higher ed)
- \$1.2 billion for housing
- \$555 million in rural assistance programs

Furthermore, the state shares gas, liquor, and marijuana revenues it collects with the counties and cities based on census figures with cities getting at least \$38/person and counties \$6/person.

The plain facts are: the Decennial Census is a snapshot in time that will affect the next decade. If the snapshot comes out “blurry” because the census exercise failed to count all residents in the state, that’s \$5.8 million lost over a 10-year period for every 100 households missed in the count.

But it is not just about the fair distribution of economic resources, it is also about the just and accurate distribution of political power.

Based on the 2010 census count, Washington gained a seat in the US House of Representatives. In this decade, given the rate of population growth, Election Data Services estimates that a 1.9 percent difference in the 2020 Census count could mean the difference between 10 and 11 Congressional seats for Washington.¹ Specifically, EDS’ estimate indicates that, if the 2018 estimated population in Washington increased by 150,165 people, it would gain a seat. That is 60,066 households. Stated another way, if the census failed to count 60,066 households, Washington’s congressional delegation would remain at 10.

There are many reasons that make the Decennial Census exercise important for the well-being of Washington’s communities.

¹ See page 7, <https://www.electiondataservices.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Appor18TablesMaps.pdf>.