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UNH City Fiscal Year 2020 Budget & Policy Priorities **Census 2020 Agenda**

United Neighborhood Houses is working with its network of 40 settlement houses to ensure that the 2020 Decennial Census successfully counts all New York City residents. An undercount would dilute New York's congressional representation and jeopardize a decade's worth of publicly funded services, both of which would disproportionately harm immigrants and communities of color who live in the most hard-to-count (HTC) census tracts across the city. As trusted community institutions embedded in many of these HTC neighborhoods, settlement houses are working to ensure meaningful access, information, assistance, and protection to all completing the census. With the allocation of over \$700 billion worth of federal funding at stake, a fair and accurate Census is essential to ensure New York City receives its fair share of funding.

The City has committed to fund its Census work at \$4.3 million for outreach and publicity leading up to the 2020 Census. To administer a coordinated outreach campaign, **the City must increase this investment to include funding for community based organizations (CBOs) to lead Census outreach at the neighborhood level in order to reach New York's most vulnerable communities.**

The benefits of funding settlement houses and other CBOs to lead Census outreach in partnership with the City include:

- Language access and cultural fluency specific to each community in which the CBOs are embedded;
- Educational resources customized to reflect the importance of the Census in conjunction with the issues that local communities most closely identify with;
- Implementation of Census messaging into programming such as Adult Literacy Classes and SYEP, and organizational processes such as intake and orientation;
- Access to computer labs in community centers that residents can use to fill out the census form online while receiving technical assistance; and
- A coordinated effort across CBOs to strategically target populations based on geography and demographics to avoid duplication of efforts.

UNH Recommendation: The City should fund community based organizations to carry out Census outreach and technical assistance over the next two years. New York City can only succeed when all its residents do, and an equitable share of federal dollars is paramount to building that success.

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