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## **UNH State Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget & Policy Priorities** **2020 Census Agenda**

**2020 Census** – United Neighborhood Houses is working with its network of settlement houses to ensure that the 2020 Decennial Census successfully counts all New York residents. To administer a coordinated outreach campaign that would reach New York’s most vulnerable communities, **the State must invest \$40 million to be allocated across FY2019-20 and FY2020-21 for community-based organizations (CBOs) to carry out education, outreach, and technical assistance in anticipation of the 2020 Census.**

This \$40m proposal is based on a report conducted by the Fiscal Policy Institute in 2018 that surveyed 32 community groups around the state to determine the cost per-person of outreach to HTC communities.

**Challenge and Opportunity** – An undercount would dilute New York’s congressional representation and jeopardize a decade’s worth of public services – about \$700 billion – both of which would disproportionately harm immigrants and communities of color living in the most hard-to-count (HTC) census tracts across the country. 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.

The benefits of funding settlement houses and other CBOs to lead Census outreach in partnership with the State 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 State must invest \$40 million for community-based organizations to partner with the State in carrying out Census outreach and technical assistance over the next two years. New York 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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