



COUNTING

COUNTING ON CHICAGO COALITION NEWSLETTER - WORKING TO ENSURE EQUITY THROUGH A COMPLETE CENSUS COUNT

MESSAGE FROM THE COALITION COORDINATOR



Greetings,
As it happens every decade, the U.S. Census is taking place this year in 2020.

The Census is a critical tool in our efforts to get the federal government to adequately fund those needs in communities on Chicago's south and west sides. We need to view the 2020 Census as an all-hands-on-deck appeal. It's critical that everyone in our communities is counted.

According to their web site, "the census was first taken in 1790, as mandated by the Constitution. It counts our population and households, providing the basis for reapportioning congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to support states, counties and communities' vital programs — impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy."

For anyone who doesn't believe in the importance of everyone in our communities being counted, contemplate which of these important programs your

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COUNTING ON CHICAGO KICK-OFF



Illinois Legislative Black Caucus "Get Counted" Bus Tour makes a stop on the West Side to tout new coalition.

Last November, the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus "Get Counted" Bus Tour made a stop on the West Side to announce the creation of the "Counting on Chicago Coalition", an unprecedented group of 18 human service organizations that have joined forces to leverage their deep channels and connections to hard-to-reach populations to make sure they are counted in the upcoming federal census. Counting on Chicago has been awarded a \$2.3 million grant to reach out to hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans across 13 communities.

“Counting on Chicago Coalition” Was Established to Ensure Inclusion of Chicago’s Historically Undercounted and Marginalized Populations in the 2020 Census

The announcement was made at the second stop of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Census 2020 bus tour to raise awareness of the important role the federal census has on provisions of resources for Illinois and Chicago. In helping to announce the coalition, Illinois Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford said that an accurate census count has significant consequences.

“Historically, people of color have been undercounted during the census process, a shortcoming that has left our communities without proper funding for vital resources and put a strain on state budgeting,” said Sen. Lightford. “My colleagues and I are working on legislation that provides the necessary funding to reach those hard-to-count populations in order to ensure that Illinois does not lose out on billions in federal funding or representation in Congress.”

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year’s budget to prepare and execute the census in Illinois. This is the largest per-person investment made in any state in the nation. The resources are going directly to outreach and education, with grants to community organizations across the state engaged in this work, particularly in hard-to-count communities. The executive order signed by Gov. Pritzker also established a Census Office within the Department of Human Services to lead this effort and a Census Advisory Panel to guide its work.

The Counting on Chicago Coalition will work under a \$2.3 million grant awarded by the State of Illinois’ 2020 Census Grant program, which aims to make sure that Illinois is represented appropriately in the upcoming census. The grant represents the largest effort ever undertaken to reach the traditionally hard-to-count population in Illinois in the history of the U.S. Census.

Illinois State Representative LaShawn Ford commented, “We’re looking to reduce the skepticism people have in black communities about taking part in the Census. This collective effort is a call for all hands on deck to bring awareness to the value each person brings to their communities when they’re counted.”

MESSAGE FROM THE COALITION COORDINATOR

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community can afford to do without. As we work toward a more equitable and inclusive city, we need every dollar we can possibly obtain to make real change a reality.

With that in mind, HSI has joined with 17 other organizations that serve Chicago’s south and west sides to form the Counting on Chicago Coalition. This diverse group of organizations span the spectrum of service providers from healthcare organizations to early childhood educators and senior citizen support groups. The one common thread we all share is a proven commitment to servicing vulnerable populations typically undercounted in the Census.

We’re committed to keeping you abreast of the details of our work through the use communications tools like this publication, our Counting on Chicago Coalition social media networks and updates on our website at www.countingonchicagocoalition.org

We look forward to your support of this important work.

*Respectfully,
Donald Dew, CEO, Habilitative Systems, Inc.*

MEET THE COALITION MEMBERS

Counting on Chicago is 18 organizations, each with strong and unique access points to vulnerable populations such as disenfranchised minority communities, the homeless, disabled, elderly, and people across the spectrum who are otherwise at risk of elimination from the census process. The coalition members are:



Habilitative Systems, Inc. (HIS) provides supportive services to improve the lives of Chicago's most disadvantaged and vulnerable residents in the North Lawndale,

West Garfield, Austin and Englewood communities. www.habilitative.org (lead agency)

Above and Beyond Family Recovery Center is a licensed Level I and Level II



outpatient addiction treatment facility located on the West side of Chicago at 2942 West Lake Street, serving Chicago's community of the disenfranchised with a long history of unemployment and substance abuse impacting both the family and the community at large. www.anb.today



Alternative Schools Network works in partnership with community-based organizations & schools to re-engage a diverse community of learners to actualize their true academic potential & personal goals by promoting educational innovation, workforce opportunities & civic participation for future leadership and service. www.asnchicago.org

Austin Childcare Provider Network offers education and training for 80 licensed childcare providers and 5 daycare centers enrolled as members working to further their education and raise the level of quality childcare in Austin and neighboring communities. www.austinchildcareprovidersnet.org

Austin Peoples Action Center is a social service agency serving Chicago's Austin Community and several suburban communities.



www.AustinPeoplesActionCenter.org



Chicago West Side Branch NAACP

Chicago Westside Branch NAACP/Bright Leadership Institute is a local chapter of the NAACP is a chapter-driven, membership-driven organization dedicated to social equality.

www.illinoisnaacp.org/chicagowestside

Communities United serves the neighborhoods of Albany Park, Austin, Belmont-Cragin, Roseland and West Ridge and focuses on advancing health equity, affordable housing, education justice, youth investment, immigrant rights, police accountability and restorative justice alternatives.



www.communitiesunited.org



Family Guidance Center is a not-for-profit behavioral healthcare organization that treats and prevents substance use

disorder as well as an array of other related problems, educating and guiding individuals toward their full potential as productive members within their own families and our society. www.fgcinc.org



Fathers Who Care advocates on behalf of fathers in the areas of responsible fatherhood involvement, healthy relationships,

father's rights, re-entry opportunities, men's health and wellness and youth leadership and development. www.fatherswhocare.org



Garfield Park Community Council focuses on renewing the community's commercial corridors, spurring new housing investment, addressing public safety and wellness, and building connections between neighbors by integrating resident leadership and advocacy to ensure that community members lead neighborhood planning and renewal efforts. Garfield Park Community Council



Haymarket Center aids people with substance

use disorders in their recovery by providing comprehensive behavioral health solutions. www.hcenter.org



The Loretto Hospital is an acute care community

hospital that serves over 33,000 patients each year from Chicago's Austin and surrounding communities providing a unique, patient-centered healthcare delivery system that promotes general wellness and education. www.lorettohospital.org

People's Community Development Association, an

affiliate of the People's Church of the Harvest Church of God in Christ, fulfills community and economic development and is a pillar in the East Garfield Park community.

www.pcdac.com



PHALANX FAMILY SERVICES

Phalanx Family Services assists economically disadvantaged, at-risk youth and families in the pursuit of self-sufficiency using a multi-faceted approach to employment that includes recruiting, training, job placement and other support services for individuals seeking employment or career advancement.

www.phalanxgrpservices.org

Proviso-Leyden Council for Community Action is

a private, not-for-profit corporation to serve low-income residents in Cook County's Proviso and Leyden Townships, and the Chicago metropolitan area.

www.plcca.org





Saint Agatha Church is a vibrant Christian faith community rejoicing in the power of praise and worship of Jesus Christ as our teacher and guide, seeking to welcome all into both the work of Jesus Christ in the North Lawndale community and the worship that nourishes us for that work.

www.st-agatha-chicago.org



Sinai Health System delivers a full range of quality inpatient and outpatient

services, as well as a large number of innovative, community-based health, research and social service programs focused on our collective depth of expertise and passion to improve the health of the 1.5 million people who live in our diverse service area.

www.sinai.org

Westside Health Authority organization's mission is to use the capacity of local residents to improve the health and well-being of the community, which includes the social and physical

environment which contributes to the mental, physical and spiritual well-being of the estimated 22,000 residents served directly and indirectly annually through their services.

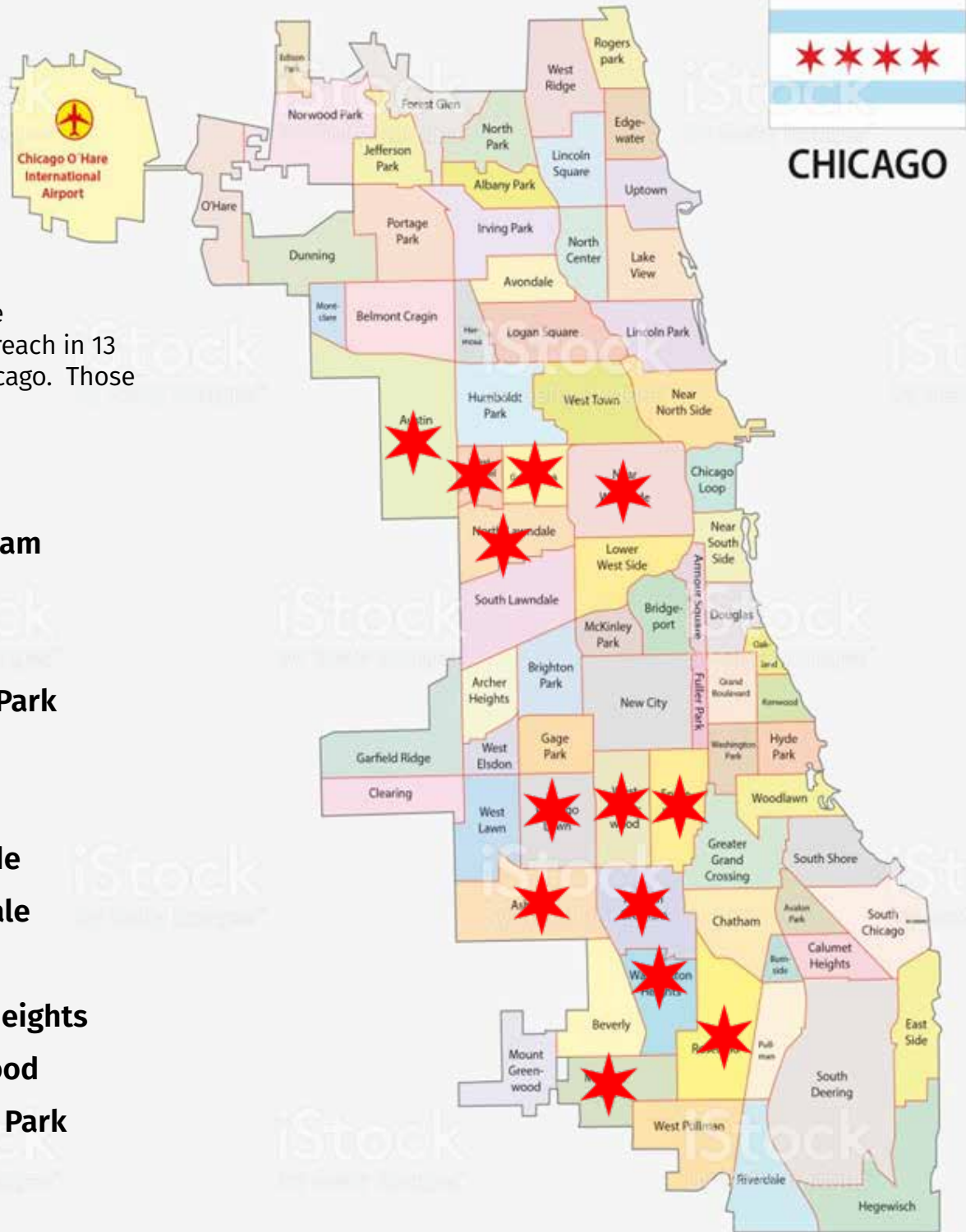
www.plcca.org

FUNDING GRANT:

- Working under a \$2.3 million grant awarded by the State of Illinois' 2020 Census Grant program.
- Purpose is to make sure that traditionally under-represented and undercounted populations in Chicago are represented appropriately in the upcoming 2020 federal census.
- The grant represents the largest effort in the history of the U.S. Census to reach the traditionally hard-to-count population in Chicago.



COMMUNITIES WHERE THE COALITION WORKS:



The coalition will be responsible for outreach in 13 communities in Chicago. Those neighborhoods are:

- **Ashburn**
- **Auburn Gresham**
- **Austin**
- **Chicago Lawn**
- **East Garfield Park**
- **Englewood**
- **Morgan Park**
- **Near West Side**
- **North Lawndale**
- **Roseland**
- **Washington Heights**
- **West Englewood**
- **West Garfield Park**

The Counting on Chicago work ahead includes:

- *Organizing and/or participating in a minimum of 100 community events and forums, such as a rally at Daley Plaza, a steppers set and NBA Allstar weekend events in Chicago*
- *Phone banking and door-to-door neighborhood canvassing to 150,000 homes*
- *Census education and awareness to 50,000 direct clients of coalition members*
- *Partnering with CPS, parochial, and alternative schools to encourage parents to participate in the census survey*
- *Connecting with 250 Chicago churches for census outreach*
- *Touching 150,000 households with a marketing outreach campaign*
- *Partnering with hospitals and medical centers and clinics*
- *Coordinating and mobilizing a youth-led, peer-to-peer outreach engagement for 18-21 year-olds*



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN ASSIST...

- *Help your community get the services they deserve by promoting their participation in Census 2020.*
- *Post information about Census 2020 on your Facebook, Twitter and other social media pages.*
- *Tell family, friends, school mates, church members, fraternity brothers and sorority sisters that we need their help to get the word out about the importance of being counted in the 2020 U.S. Census.*
- *Volunteer with a community coalition partner organization.*

www.countingonchicagocoalition.org

#Census2020 #ChicagoCensus #MakeIllinoisCount #BeCounted #2020Census #SouthSideCounts #WestSideCounts #Census