



## Ohio Census Advocacy Coalition

### PRESS RELEASE

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### **OHIO CENSUS ADVOCACY COALITION APPLAUDS GOVERNOR DEWINE'S LEADERSHIP ON 2020 CENSUS IN OHIO**

*Newly Signed Executive Order Highlights Hard To Count Communities and Young Children*  
Columbus, OH | April 16, 2019

COLUMBUS - On April 15, 2019, Governor DeWine signed Executive Order 2019-13D, which establishes Ohio's statewide Census 2020 Complete Count Commission (CCC). The Ohio Census Advocacy Coalition (OCAC), a network of Ohio-based advocacy organizations, faith, business, education, and community leaders, applauded the administration's leadership in creating the CCC and recognizing the importance of the census for all Ohioans.

"The release of this Executive Order early in the DeWine Administration's tenure is a very positive step forward for the state. We are thankful that the Administration is making the 2020 Census a priority and ensuring that local governments have seats at the table," said Keary McCarthy, Executive Director for the Ohio Mayors Alliance and Ohio Census Advocacy Committee Executive Committee Member.

The Executive Order establishes the CCC, which will consist of up to 51 individuals appointed by the Governor and will include representatives from the legislature, state and local government, business, academia, community and non-profit organizations, and ethnic and faith-based communities. The CCC is required to submit written, actionable recommendations to the Governor by December 1, 2019; hold quarterly meetings to implement the recommendations; and submit a written report by December 1, 2021 reviewing their work for preparations for the 2030 Census.

"We are especially encouraged by the Order's recognition of the OCAC's priority of hard-to-count communities. The Order not only recognizes that certain populations are difficult to count – specifically, including young children – but calls for 'implementing strategies to reach hard-to-count populations.' It will be absolutely critical to ensure that these communities are represented on the state CCC and that Ohio provides adequate funding to carry out a fair, representative count of all Ohioans." said Ashon McKenzie, Policy Director for the Children's Defense Fund-Ohio and Ohio Census Advocacy Committee Executive Committee Member.

The Census is vital to Ohio's political representation and federal funding for the next decade. A mere 0.8% undercount of the population could mean the difference between the state keeping

or losing one or more seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and a portion of more than \$33.5 billion of federal funding distributed in Ohio based on the Census for important programs like highway planning and construction, transit grants, Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, low- income housing, SNAP, foster care, business loans, and more.

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