Counting for Dollars 2020
The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds

MONTANA

In FY2016, Montana received $2,990,170,076 through 55 federal spending programs guided by data derived from the 2010 Census.

The Counting for Dollars 2020 Project aims to understand 1) the extent to which the federal government will rely on data from the 2020 Census to guide the distribution of federal funding to states, localities, and households across the nation and 2) the impact of the accuracy of the 2020 Census on the fair, equitable distribution of these funds.

The project has analyzed spending by state for 55 federal programs ($883,094,826,042 in FY2016). Three types of programs are analyzed:

- **Domestic financial assistance programs** provide financial assistance – including direct payments to individuals, grants, loans, and loan guarantees – to non-federal entities within the U.S. – such as individuals and families, state and local governments, companies, and nonprofits – in order to fulfill a public purpose.

- **Tax credit programs** allow a special exclusion, exemption, or deduction from gross income or provide a special credit, a preferential rate of tax, or a deferral of tax liability.

- **Procurement programs** award a portion of Federal prime contract dollars to small businesses located in areas selected on the basis of census-derived data.

The four uses of census-derived datasets to geographically allocate funding are:

- **Define eligibility criteria** – that is, identify which organizations or individuals can receive funds.

- **Compute formulas** that geographically allocate funds to eligible recipients.

- **Rank project applications** based on priorities (e.g., smaller towns, poorer neighborhoods).

- **Set interest rates** for federal loan programs.

The two categories of census-derived datasets are:

- **Geographic classifications** – the characterization (e.g., rural), delineation (e.g., Metropolitan Areas), or designation (e.g., Opportunity Zones) of specific geographic areas.

- **Variable datasets**
  
  - **Annual updates** of population and housing variables collected in the Decennial Census.
  
  - **Household surveys** collecting new data elements (e.g., income, occupation) by using the Decennial Census to design representative samples and interpret results.

Reports of the Counting for Dollars 2020 Project:


- Report #2: Estimating Fiscal Costs of a Census Undercount to States (March 2018)*

- Report #3: Role of the Decennial Census in Distributing Federal Funds to Rural America (December 2018)*

- Report #4: Census-derived Datasets Used to Distribute Federal Funds (December 2018)


- Report #6: An Inventory of 320 Census-guided Federal Spending Programs (forthcoming)

* Data available by state
** Source for this state sheet

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COUNTING FOR DOLLARS 2020: MONTANA

Allocation of Funds from 55 Large Federal Spending Programs Guided by Data Derived from the 2010 Census (Fiscal Year 2016)

Total Program Obligations: $2,990,170,076

Program | Dept. | Obligations | Program | Dept. | Obligations
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Financial Assistance Programs | | $2,915,925,237 | Federal Pell Grant Program | ED | $62,200,000
Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid) | HHS | $973,077,000 | Community Facilities Loans/Grants | USDA | $24,825,130
Federal Direct Student Loans | ED | $213,883,457 | Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants | ED | $10,640,200
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program | USDA | $166,365,465 | Crime Victim Assistance | DOJ | $7,461,053
Medicare Suppl. Medical Insurance (Part B) | HHS | $169,935,182 | CDBG Entitlement Grants | HUD | $1,818,403
Highway Planning and Construction | DOT | $441,147,063 | Public Housing Capital Fund | HUD | $2,866,000
Federal Pell Grant Program | ED | $62,200,000 | Block Grants for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse | HHS | $6,967,796
Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers | HUD | $32,344,000 | Water and Waste Disposal Systems for Rural Communities | USDA | $47,063,800
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families | HHS | $46,831,308 | Social Services Block Grant | HHS | $5,057,744
Very Low to Moderate Income Housing Loans | USDA | $164,810,948 | Rural Rental Assistance Payments | USDA | $8,409,590
Title I Grants to LEAs | ED | $46,622,762 | Business and Industry Loans | USDA | $10,500,000
State Children’s Health Insurance Program | HHS | $95,823,000 | Career and Technical Education - Basic Grants to States | ED | $5,165,733
National School Lunch Program | USDA | $27,686,000 | Homeland Security Grant Program | DHS | $4,444,188
Special Education Grants | ED | $39,037,996 | WIOA Dislocated Worker Grants | DOL | $1,681,408
Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program | HUD | $20,721,705 | HOME | HUD | $7,320,575
Federal Transit Formula Grants | DOT | $11,684,000 | State CDBG | HUD | $5,791,383
Head Start | HHS | $49,933,828 | WIOA Youth Activities | DOL | $2,437,697
WIC | USDA | $15,536,000 | WIOA Adult Activities | DOL | $3,065,280
Title IV-E Foster Care | HHS | $11,552,507 | Employment Service/Wagner-Peyser | DOL | $5,327,132
Health Care Centers | HHS | $38,793,385 | Community Services Block Grant | HHS | $3,756,915
School Breakfast Program | USDA | $9,177,000 | Special Programs for the Aging, Title III, Part C, Nutrition Services | HHS | $3,348,608
Rural Electrification Loans and Loan Guarantees | USDA | $15,606,000 | Cooperative Extension Service | USDA | $5,173,200
Public and Indian Housing | HUD | $5,061,000 | Native Amer. Employment & Training | DOL | $974,103
Low Income Home Energy Assistance | HHS | $23,465,936 | | |
Child and Adult Care Food Program | USDA | $10,928,000 | WIOA Dislocated Worker Grants | DOL | $27,642,600
Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to the States | ED | $13,700,185 | Low Income Housing Tax Credit | Treas | $20,005,608
Child Care Mandatory and Matching Funds | HHS | $8,316,000 | New Markets Tax Credit | Treas | $20,005,608
Unemployment Insurance Administration | DOL | $10,296,000 | | |
Federal Transit - Capital Investment Grants | DOT | $1,032,050 | HUBZones Program | SBA | $26,596,631
Child Care and Development Block Grant | HHS | $7,827,000 | | |
Adoption Assistance | HHS | $8,434,702 | | |

Federal Tax Expenditures | | $47,648,208

Federal Procurement Programs | | $26,596,631

Prepared by Andrew Reamer, the George Washington Institute of Public Policy, the George Washington University. Spending data analysis provided by Sean Moulton, Open Government Program Manager, Project on Government Oversight. | January 30, 2019

Note: The sequence of the above programs is consistent with U.S. rank order by program expenditures. (See U.S. sheet in series.)


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