

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In FY2016, District of Columbia received

## \$6,255,979,818

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 #1:** Initial Analysis: 16 Large Census-guided Financial Assistance Programs (August 2017)\*
- > **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 #5:** Analysis of 55 Large Census-guided Federal Spending Programs (forthcoming)\*†
- > **Report #6:** An Inventory of 320 Census-guided Federal Spending Programs (forthcoming)

\* Data available by state

† Source for this state sheet

# Counting for Dollars 2020

## The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds

REPORT

COUNTING FOR DOLLARS 2020:

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

**Total Program Obligations: \$6,255,979,818**

Program	Dept.	Obligations	Program	Dept.	Obligations
<b>Financial Assistance Programs</b>		<b>\$5,684,865,527</b>			
Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid)	HHS	\$2,172,898,000	Community Facilities Loans/Grants	USDA	\$25,750,000
Federal Direct Student Loans	ED	\$1,489,489,258	Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	ED	\$12,667,408
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	USDA	\$210,436,410	Crime Victim Assistance	DOJ	\$5,030,151
Medicare Suppl. Medical Insurance (Part B)	HHS	\$184,240,174	CDBG Entitlement Grants	HUD	\$13,778,139
Highway Planning and Construction	DOT	\$168,585,286	Public Housing Capital Fund	HUD	\$14,356,000
Federal Pell Grant Program	ED	\$118,500,000	Block Grants for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse	HHS	\$6,967,796
Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers	HUD	\$200,816,000	Water and Waste Disposal Systems for Rural Communities	USDA	\$0
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	HHS	\$101,704,917	Social Services Block Grant	HHS	\$3,255,745
Very Low to Moderate Income Housing Loans	USDA	\$0	Rural Rental Assistance Payments	USDA	\$0
Title I Grants to LEAs	ED	\$44,194,532	Business and Industry Loans	USDA	\$0
State Children's Health Insurance Program	HHS	\$25,629,000	Career and Technical Education - Basic Grants to States	ED	\$4,160,433
National School Lunch Program	USDA	\$28,071,000	Homeland Security Grant Program	DHS	\$57,404,711
Special Education Grants	ED	\$18,327,735	WIOA Dislocated Worker Grants	DOL	\$3,625,845
Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program	HUD	\$139,979,294	HOME	HUD	\$3,730,426
Federal Transit Formula Grants	DOT	\$345,375,000	State CDBG	HUD	\$0
Head Start	HHS	\$45,650,774	WIOA Youth Activities	DOL	\$3,064,227
WIC	USDA	\$15,049,000	WIOA Adult Activities	DOL	\$2,302,707
Title IV-E Foster Care	HHS	\$46,395,403	Employment Service/Wagner-Peyser	DOL	\$2,387,682
Health Care Centers	HHS	\$26,667,214	Community Services Block Grant	HHS	\$13,693,414
School Breakfast Program	USDA	\$11,318,000	Special Programs for the Aging, Title III, Part C, Nutrition Services	HHS	\$3,348,608
Rural Electrification Loans and Loan Guarantees	USDA	\$0	Cooperative Extension Service	USDA	\$1,330,170
Public and Indian Housing	HUD	\$44,664,000	Native Amer. Employment & Training	DOL	\$0
Low Income Home Energy Assistance	HHS	\$10,390,990			
Child and Adult Care Food Program	USDA	\$8,663,000	<b>Federal Tax Expenditures</b>		<b>\$86,843,375</b>
Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to the States	ED	\$16,116,707	Low Income Housing Tax Credit	Treas	\$18,084,085
Child Care Mandatory and Matching Funds	HHS	\$7,393,000	New Markets Tax Credit	Treas	\$68,759,290
Unemployment Insurance Administration	DOL	\$10,989,000			
Federal Transit - Capital Investment Grants	DOT	\$0	<b>Federal Procurement Programs</b>		<b>\$484,270,915</b>
Child Care and Development Block Grant	HHS	\$4,377,000	HUBZones Program	SBA	\$484,270,915
Adoption Assistance	HHS	\$12,091,371			

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.)

Counting for Dollars 2020 publications and spreadsheet with above data available at <https://gwipp.gwu.edu/counting-dollars-2020-role-decennial-census-geographic-distribution-federal-funds>

**GW Institute  
of Public Policy**

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

For further information:

**Andrew Reamer**, Research Professor  
The George Washington University  
[areamer@gwu.edu](mailto:areamer@gwu.edu)