

2020 Census: What's at Stake for Texas?



OUR VOICE

The Census shows how many people live in an area, which determines the number of representatives Texans have in Congress and the number of electoral votes Texas has in presidential elections.



OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

Much of our federal tax money that we send to Washington comes back to Texas in accordance with Census calculations, and supports housing, transportation and other services we use.



OUR BUSINESSES

Companies use population and demographic data from the Census to determine where to set up shop and expand, creating jobs and generating opportunities for Texans.

George Washington University: Dr. Andrew Reamer's Counting the Dollars 2020 Study

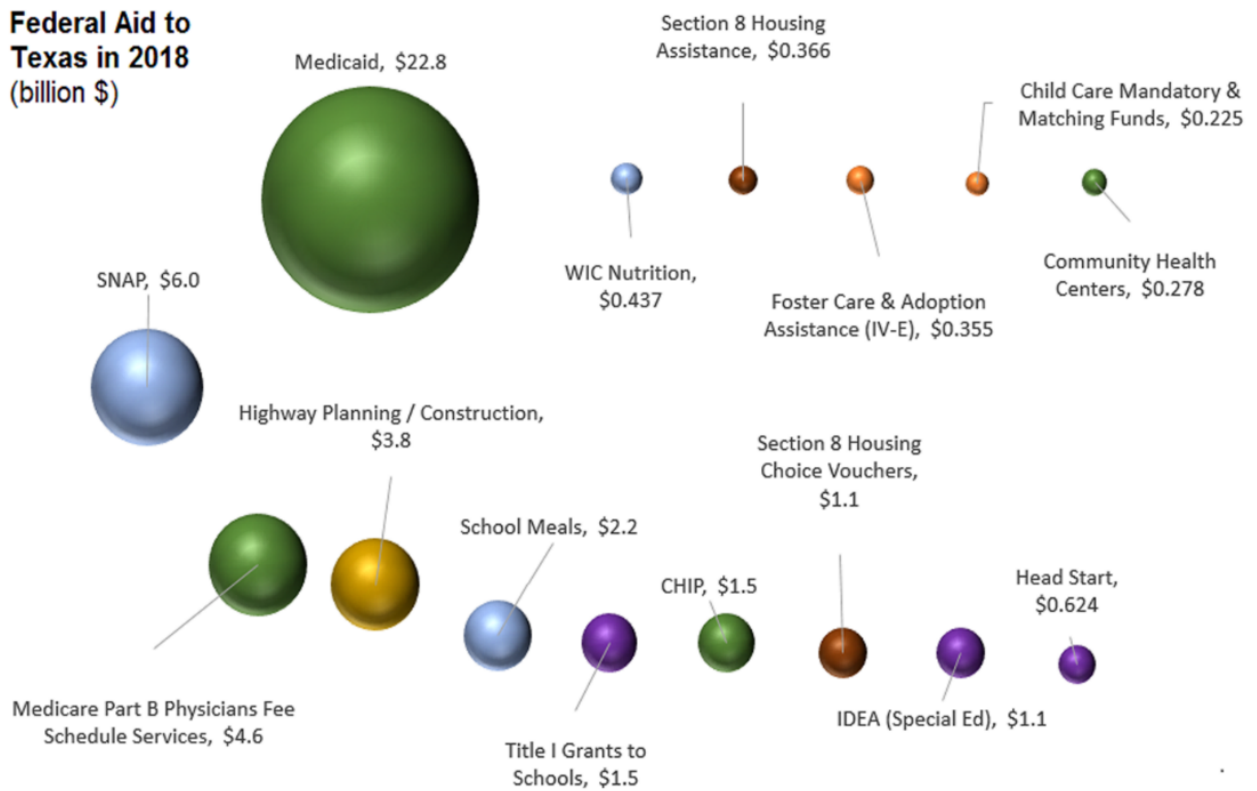
- **Goal 1:** Take a deep dive into the role the 2020 Census will play on the distribution of federal funding to states, localities, and households across the nation.
- **Goal 2:** Understand how the accuracy of the 2020 Census could impact the fair, equitable distribution of these funds.
- **Key Finding 1:** The equitable distribution of federal financial assistance to state and local governments and households will depend on the accuracy of the 2020 Census.
- **Key Finding 2:** Census-derived data are used in four ways to guide dissemination of federal expenditures: eligibility, geographic location, selection preference of projects, and interest rates for loan programs.
- **Key Finding 3:** An additional 1% undercount for 5 FMAP-guided programs shows Texas would lose almost \$300 million per year over the next decade.

Terms for Discussion

- **Census-derived statistics:** Federal datasets that are extensions of or otherwise rely on the decennial census.
- **Census-guided financial assistance programs:** Programs that rely on Census-derived statistics to determine program eligibility and/or allocate funds to states and localities.
- **Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP):** FMAP is the percentage rates used to determine the matching federal funds rate allocated annually to certain medical and social service programs. Each state's FMAP moves in the opposite direction from its per capita income (PCI)—the lower the PCI the higher the FMAP. PCI is found by dividing the state's total residents' income by total state population. The state's total income does not change if the Census misses people. However, if the total income is divided by an inaccurately low population count, the PCI will go up and the FMAP will falls, directly affecting how much money is sent to the state.

FY 2018 Federal Funding to Texas¹

Federal Aid to Texas in 2018
(billion \$)



Follow CPPP Research Analyst/State Priorities Partnership Fellow **Cassie Davis** on Twitter for the latest policy updates on the **#2020Census**. Visit <http://bettertexasblog.org/2020-census-tx/> to learn more about how an accurate 2020 Census will impact Texas.

¹ Data & chart compiled by Eva DeLuna Castro from Legislative Budget Board (2019) Top 100 Federal Funding Sources in the Texas Budget: Legislative Primer. http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Documents/Publications/Primer/5075_Top_100_Federal_Funding_Sources_2018.pdf