



## Census Bureau Budget Fact Sheet 12-22-06

Before adjourning, the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress passed a Continuing Resolution to fund most federal agencies (for which regular Fiscal Year 2007 appropriations bills were not completed) through February 15, 2007. This current “CR” sets the short-term agency spending levels at the lower of the House-passed or Senate-passed funding allocations.

Funding for the Census Bureau is included in the House Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations bill (H.R. 5672) and the Senate Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill (no number). The House passed its bill in June. The Senate Appropriations Committee passed its bill in July, but the full Senate did not consider the measure. Therefore, the Census Bureau is currently operating at the levels set in the House bill. The House bill hit the 2010 census account particularly hard.

The Administration requested \$878 million for the Census Bureau in FY07, \$76 million (about 10 percent) above the Fiscal Year 2006 (FY06) allocation of \$802 million. The request included \$512 million for 2010 census activities, \$64 million (about 14 percent) above the FY06 allocation of \$448 million. The House-passed appropriations bill for FY07 allocated \$816 million for the Census Bureau, \$62 million *less* than the Administration’s request and only \$14 million more than FY06. It includes \$459 million for the 2010 census, roughly \$53 million *below* the requested amount.

(in millions of dollars)	FY06 Funding	FY07 Request	Difference ('06-'07 request)	House FY07 Funding	Difference (FY07 – request)
<b>Census Bureau</b>	\$802M	\$878M	+\$76M (10 percent)	\$816M	(-\$62M)
<b>2010 census</b>	\$448M	\$512M	+\$64M (14 percent)	\$459M	(-\$53M)

Mindful of the serious consequences of insufficient funding, the Office of Management and Budget requested (before Congress adjourned) additional funding for the 2010 census account in the short-term CR that runs through February 15. The Census Bureau needs *\$478 million*, OMB proposed, to continue development of GPS-equipped handheld computers for field activities in the 2008 Dress Rehearsal. The handheld devices will be used, starting in April 2007, for block canvassing in the two Dress Rehearsal sites, to verify addresses in the Master Address File, the foundation of an accurate census. If the Census Bureau cannot test the new, complex automation systems in the Dress Rehearsal, it will fall back on a traditional paper-based census, which could increase the life-cycle cost of the census by “over \$1 billion.”

The amount OMB has requested would put the Periodic Censuses and Programs account at the Senate Appropriations committee-passed funding level of \$644 million for FY07. This amount is still short of the President’s request and could jeopardize other activities, including the 2007 Economic Census, group quarters coverage in the American Community Survey, timely completion of TIGER digital map updates for the 2010 census, and development of improved enumeration methods for historically hard-to-count population groups.

OMB also warned that extending the CR for the entire fiscal year presents a “significant risk” to non-decennial programs. Even short term funding at its proposed level of \$478 million for the 2010 census “would require difficult program eliminations” in order to implement automated systems on schedule.

Reverting to FY06 funding levels would be even more disastrous for the 2010 census. While the Census Bureau has not issued an “impact statement,” outlining possible consequences of continued, long-term funding at last year’s levels, we can safely make the case that *without a significant funding ramp-up three years before the census, major components of the 2010 census plan are in jeopardy, which will affect the accuracy and cost of the count in every congressional district in the country. An inaccurate census will affect the fair distribution of political representation through congressional apportionment and legislative redistricting (federal, state, and local levels) and the prudent allocation of \$200+ billion annually in federal program funds to every community.*

We are not sure when Congress will act on a full-year CR, but appropriators are sure to begin considering requests for exceptions to previously-set funding levels as soon as the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress reconvenes on January 4.

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