

ACS-18(L)(C)(GQ)(ATLANTA)(2013)  
(7-2012)



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Economics and Statistics Administration**  
**U.S. Census Bureau**  
Washington, DC 20233-0001  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

A Message from the Director, U.S. Census Bureau...

To: Director of Student Housing

Your student housing facility has been randomly selected to participate in a very important national survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau called the **American Community Survey** (ACS). The ACS is an on-going survey that tells us what the population looks like and how it lives. A sample of students who live or stay in student housing is included in the ACS. Participating in the ACS is important and also *required by law* (Title 13, United States Code, Sections 141, 193, 221, and 223).

Estimates from the ACS are used by federal, state, local, and tribal governments, as well as by businesses and private nonprofit organizations.

- The ACS estimates are used by federal agencies to determine the distribution of Title I funding and college tuition grant and loan programs.
- Local governments use these estimates for budgeting, evaluating programs, and planning for community development projects, such as those for libraries and new schools.
- Other organizations use this information to provide services to the community and to plan or establish new facilities, buildings, and programs.
- Researchers and planners at your own institution almost certainly use ACS estimates themselves.

Throughout the year, representatives for the ACS contact different facilities, such as college residence halls, dormitories, and fraternity/sorority housing recognized by the college or university. During the next month, one of our ACS field representatives will contact you or someone in your office to discuss the survey and to schedule an appointment to visit your facility.

The field representative will:

- answer any questions you may have about the ACS or about interviewing residents of your facility.
- collect and verify basic information about your student housing facility such as the facility name and address.
- ask for a list of students who are currently living or staying at the sampled student housing facility to establish a basis for their sample. According to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) the Census Bureau is permitted to collect this information.
- select a random sample of students to take part in the ACS.
- interview the selected students. If a student is unable to participate in an interview, the field representative will work with you to determine if there are other ways to get the needed information.

Selected students will be asked to respond to the ACS and provide information about various topics, such as education and employment. **All the information the U.S. Census Bureau collects is confidential by law (Title 13, United States Code, Section 9).**

Your cooperation is essential to the success of the ACS, and the field representative may need your assistance in collecting survey information from the sample of students. The field representative will need access to the students chosen. For those students who do not complete the survey, colleges and universities can lawfully disclose directory information from student records to the Census Bureau without prior consent of the student, parents, or guardians as stated in the FERPA. Directory information includes a student's name, date of birth, school address, and dates of attendance.

The enclosed brochure provides answers to frequently asked questions about the ACS. If you want to learn more about the ACS, please visit the Census Bureau's Web site at [census.gov/acs](http://census.gov/acs).

If you have further questions, please call the Census Bureau's Atlanta Regional Office toll-free number at 1-800-424-6974 (ext. 53955), and ask for the ACS supervisor.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation, and we look forward to working with you.

Enclosure

ACS-18(L)(C)(GQ)(CHICAGO)(2013)  
(7-2012)



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**U.S. Census Bureau**  
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If you have further questions, please call the Census Bureau's Chicago Regional Office toll-free number at 1-800-865-6384 (ext.1), and ask for the ACS supervisor.

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Enclosure

ACS-18(L)(C)(GQ)(DENVER)(2013)  
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If you have further questions, please call the Census Bureau's Denver Regional Office toll-free number at 1-888-209-7659, and ask for the ACS supervisor.

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ACS-18(L)(C)(GQ)(LOS ANGELES)(2013)  
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If you have further questions, please call the Census Bureau's Los Angeles Regional Office toll-free number at 1-800-992-3530 (ext.1), and ask for the ACS supervisor.

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ACS-18(L)(C)(GQ)(NEW YORK)(2013)  
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If you have further questions, please call the Census Bureau's New York Regional Office toll-free number at 1-800-991-2520 (ext. 3400), and ask for the ACS supervisor.

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ACS-18(L)(C)(GQ)(PHILADELPHIA)(2013)  
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If you have further questions, please call the Census Bureau's Philadelphia Regional Office toll-free number at 1-866-238-1374, and ask for the ACS supervisor.

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