

08/31/2015

«PREFIX» «FIRST_NAME_MI» «LAST_NAME_SUFF»
«TITLE»
«ADDRESS_1»
«ADDRESS_2»
«ADDRESS_3»
«ADDRESS_4»
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»

Dear «SALUTATION» «LAST_NAME»:

I am writing to inform you that we have invited your state, through your designated official state liaison, to participate in Phase 1 of the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program (RDP). Under the provisions of Public Law 94-171 (Enclosure 1), the objective of the RDP is to provide each state with the small area geography, such as election precincts and census blocks, and population totals necessary for legislative redistricting after the 2020 Census. Towards this goal, the U.S. Census Bureau through its RDP, offers states the opportunity to provide updates to their congressional, legislative and voting district plans as well as provide suggestions for 2020 Census tabulation block boundaries.

The Census Bureau announced Phase 1, the Block Boundary Suggestion Project (BBSP), in a Federal Register Notice (Enclosure 2) on June 26, 2015. The Census Bureau will provide geographic data files from the Master Address File/Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) System for your state by December 31, 2015. The Census Bureau will also provide access to the Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) to facilitate your state's participation in Phase 1.

The Census Bureau will provide training, by request of the state liaison or their designee, and support in the use of the GUPS and the non-GUPS methodology. Additionally, the Census Bureau will work with the liaison through all steps of Phase 1 including verification, which will occur one year later starting in December of 2016.

Phase 1 is a voluntary program. We have asked the liaison to confirm your state's participation by December 15, 2015. Public Law 94-171 requires that state participation be nonpartisan. If you have any questions, please contact me, James Whitehorne, Chief of the Census Redistricting & Voting Rights Data Office (CRVRDO), at (301) 763-4039.

Sincerely,

James Whitehorne
Chief
Census Redistricting & Voting Rights Data Office
4600 Silver Hill Road, Washington, D.C. 20233

Enclosures
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