

**The Office of Management and Budget  
Paperwork Reduction Act Submission**

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Current Population Survey Civic Engagement and Volunteering Supplement

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**Prepared by:**

**THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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## **Part B**

### **STATISTICAL METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION**

#### **B1 Potential Respondent Universe**

The Census Bureau conducts the September Civic Engagement and Volunteering Supplement in conjunction with the Current Population Survey (CPS), for which the universe is 118 million households. From this universe, the Census Bureau selects a sample of approximately 72,000 households each month, of which approximately 59,000 households are eligible for interview. Approximately 54,000 households are interviewed each month. The items in the Civic Engagement and Volunteering supplement are asked, as appropriate, for all members of these households. All civilian household members age 16 and up (citizens and non-citizens) are eligible for the questions.

#### **B2 Sampling Method and Respondent Universe**

##### **B2.1 Sampling Plan**

**Attachment A4** gives an overview of the CPS sample design and weighting methodology and response rates. The statistical properties of these supplemental items will fall within those associated with the CPS itself.

##### **B2.2 Procedures to Deal With Non-Response**

The Census Bureau maintains response rates and data accuracy for the CPS at high levels through interviewer instruction, self-study training, and follow-up of refusal interviews with more experienced senior interviewers. Additionally, they closely monitor data output and response rates, and conduct extensive debriefs of CPS interviewers and call center staff to identify potential problems with the survey. (Refer to **Item 3 of Attachment A4** for a discussion of the CPS nonresponse.)

#### **B3 Cognitive Testing of Instrument and Interview Procedures**

The US Census conducted two rounds of cognitive testing of the September 2017 Civic Engagement and Volunteering supplement questions. The purpose of cognitive testing was to examine new and revised questions included in the combined Civic Engagement and Volunteering Supplement, and assess the feasibility of conducting a survey interview with a single household member who could accurately provide proxy reports for all other household members.

Overall, the findings from this research indicate that the majority of questions tested in the combined Civic Engagement and Volunteering Supplement were clear and comprehensible to the respondents who participated in cognitive testing. Most of the tested questions required only minor revisions, such as abbreviating the reference period, removing redundant phrases, and adding or removing terms or examples from the questions.

Only one question required substantial revision (Question 14), which included restructuring the question to ask whether the social or political values of a company influenced the respondent, rather than if a respondent decided to buy products or services based on a company's values, as the question was originally worded. At the conclusion of both rounds of testing, The US Census recommended dropping this question from the final questionnaire. CNCS opted to include this question as it permits measurement of a concept significant to its stakeholders and users. CNCS provided final, revised wording.

The combined supplement was administered again in September 2019. The proposed 2021 CEV supplement includes 2 new items to ensure a more logical transition between the employment-focused CPS questions and questions about civic behaviors like volunteering. These additions were made based on based on Census feedback from the 2019 administration. Scholars with expertise in the subject matter (i.e., civic behaviors and social capital) and with using the survey were consulted to draft the 2 new items.

**B4 Persons Responsible for Statistical Aspects of the Design**

The Census Bureau will collect and process the data. Within the Census Bureau, the following individuals may be contacted for further information on data collection, operations, and analysis:

Statistical Design

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**Attachments**

- A1. Item Booklet 9\_01\_20
- A2. BC-1428RV (Confidentiality Brochure)
- A3. CPS-263 (MIS-1) (L) Atlanta (Advance Letter)
- A4. Overview of CPS Sample Design and Methodology