



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

433 West Van Buren Street
Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

312-454-0400
cmap.illinois.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dawn Raftery (draftery@cmap.illinois.gov or 312-771-7724)

CMAP analysis reveals census undercount in Hispanic communities and other communities of color

CHICAGO, August 28, 2020 – A [new analysis](#) from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has found that people of color are participating in the 2020 census at much lower rates than white residents throughout northeastern Illinois.

CMAP’s analysis also found that some communities of color have census completion rates more than 20 percentage points below their 2010 rates. The analysis comes as concerns grow nationally over the possibility of an undercount in the 2020 census. The U.S. Census Bureau recently announced that field data collection is ending Sept. 30 — one month earlier than planned — making a complete and accurate count of all northeastern Illinois residents all that more urgent.

“We are at risk of a costly census undercount, especially in communities of color,” CMAP Executive Director Erin Aleman said. “An undercount would mean billions of lost federal dollars for northeastern Illinois, deepening inequities for Black and Brown residents. During the next few weeks, we must use every resource to reach everyone and urge them to complete the census.”

For the analysis, CMAP looked at U.S. Census Bureau data and federal COVID-19 relief funding. Key findings include:

- Hispanic communities (both in Chicago and the suburbs) have seen the biggest drops in participation since 2010, with average declines of more than 7 percentage points. This mirrors trends seen in other large urban areas in the country.
- CMAP estimated how a census undercount could affect federal resource allocation by examining the CARES Act formula. If the state’s 2019 population estimate had been 5 percent less — and the population of other states stayed the same — Illinois would have lost \$235.5 million in COVID-19 relief funding.

The implications of an undercount for the region overall are substantial.

More than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed every year throughout CMAP’s seven-county region based on census numbers. A census undercount would mean billions of lost federal dollars for the region, creating further barriers to equitable reinvestment — a core principle of CMAP and the region’s long-range comprehensive plan, [ON TO 2050](#).

– END –

About CMAP

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is northeastern Illinois’ comprehensive planning organization. The agency and its partners developed ON TO 2050, a long-range plan to help the seven counties and 284 communities of our region address transportation, equity, environmental and other quality-of-life issues. Visit [CMAP’s website](#) for more information.