CQR | CENSUS QUALITY REINFORCEMENT TASK FORCE

Chair Vargas, Vice Chair Bates, 2030 committee members, this last meeting of the year is a good moment to take stock. Thank you for stepping up to serve democracy in America, by offering your expertise and lived experience to the Census Bureau. Agreeing to this appointment, you said yes to unpaid work, to make uncomfortable recommendations to our colleagues at the Census Bureau, who are the world's experts at counting the American people, who carried out a count in the face of a pandemic, forest fires, hurricanes, and other very human challenges.

To Ms. Villa Ross, and the career staff:

This is a moment where some question the very notion of public service. Let me be clear that the Census Quality Reinforcement Task Force does not share that questioning. We won't stop suggesting improvements that increase the accuracy of your work, we also won't stop thanking the career staff of the Census Bureau. We appreciate your service.

The Census Bureau must begin now to determine the resources needed for identifying hidden housing units that are not likely to be captured via partnerships or LUCA. Areas hit by disasters are extremely unlikely to participate in LUCA given the overwhelming demands of recovery. Housing units may be dramatically different years after a disaster, with hotels serving as long-term residences for some households, FEMA trailers popping up in backyards or newly created trailer parks, or accessory dwelling units and commercial to residential conversions emerging to accommodate pressing housing demand. We recommend that the Bureau develop a block-level analytical model whose results would be used to target areas for additional in-office address canvassing as well as in-field address canvassing in areas likely to have many hidden housing units and not likely to participate in LUCA.

Sincerely,

Allison Plyer

Co-chair, Census Quality Reinforcement Task Force