This memorandum officially documents the U.S. Census Bureau's plan to develop and transmit to Congress the Subjects Planned for the 2020 Census Program and Questions Planned for the 2020 Census Program.

Overview
Title 13, U.S. Code requires the Census Bureau to send Congress the subjects proposed to be included in the census not later than three years before the Census date. Congress will receive the Subjects Planned for the 2020 Census Program, describing the subjects proposed for the 2020 Census and the American Community Survey (ACS) before March 31, 2017.

Title 13 also requires that Congress receive the specific questions proposed to be included in the census not later than two years before the Census date. Congress will receive the Questions Planned for the 2020 Census Program, introducing the questions proposed for the 2020 Census and the ACS before March 31, 2018.

The Census Bureau will submit the topics included on the 2020 Census and ACS jointly, as ACS will incorporate 2020 Census content beginning in 2019, and the Census of Island Areas will incorporate a selection of these subjects and questions as well. As preparations begin for the 2020 Census, the content of both operations is jointly considered and finalized.

Scope
Previous submissions of the documentation regarding subjects and questions included the following information, examples of which can be seen in Appendices A and B:
Subjects Planned Documentation
- A brief summary of the data created by each question collected;
- An explanation of how the data are currently used to meet federal needs;
- A selection of non-federal community uses of the data; and
- Selected statutory uses by agency.

Questions Planned Documentation
- An image of the paper (mailed) version of each question;
- A brief summary of the data created by each question collected;
- An explanation of how the data are currently used to meet federal needs; and
- A selection of non-federal community uses of the data.

The documentation submitted in 2017 and 2018 will include the same complement of information. Additionally, although the ACS and 2020 questions differ by response mode, the version highlighted in the question documentation will continue to be the version included on the paper questionnaire.

Project Timeline
Many stakeholders share an interest in the 2020 Census and ACS content, including federal agencies, federal statistical agencies, state and local governments, those who will respond to the 2020 Census and ACS, academia, businesses, nonprofit organizations, media, data users, and oversight groups. The Census Bureau will develop this documentation through a process that is clear and transparent to all stakeholders, and offer opportunities for input to be provided and considered throughout the process.

The table below contains a timeline for this document development, as well as opportunities for stakeholders to comment on proposed content.¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Planned Activity</th>
<th>Planned Activity Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Inform/Create General Awareness</td>
<td>March 2016—August 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Federal Agencies are Invited to Provide Updates to Federal Use Documentation</td>
<td>March 2016—June 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Incorporate Feedback</td>
<td>May 2016—September 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Develop Topic Submission</td>
<td>October 2016—December 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Provide Updates and Conduct Briefings</td>
<td>January 2017—March 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Final <em>Topics Planned</em> document available</td>
<td>No later than March 31, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Follow-up with Federal Agencies about Federal Use Documentation as needed</td>
<td>March 2017—June 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><em>Federal Register</em> notice of Public Comment</td>
<td>July 2017—September 2017</td>
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¹ These dates are intended to show the planned phases in the development of this documentation, though actual dates may be subject to change.
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Period (proposed changes to ACS)</td>
<td>(60 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Federal Register notice of Public Comment Period II (ACS submission)</td>
<td>December 2017—January 2018 (30 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Submit Information Collection Request (ICR) to OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act (proposed changes to ACS)</td>
<td>January 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Federal Register notice Public Comment Period (proposed content for 2020 Census)</td>
<td>May 2018—July 2018 (60 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Federal Register notice Public Comment Period II (2020 Census submission)</td>
<td>August 2018—September 2018 (30 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Submit Information Collection Request (ICR) to OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act (proposed content for 2020 Census)</td>
<td>September 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Provide Updates and Conduct Briefings</td>
<td>January 2018—March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Final Questions Planned document available</td>
<td>No later than March 31, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Federal Agency Input**

The Census Bureau intends to begin developing draft descriptions of each topic and question based on recent information about the federal requirements and uses of Census estimates. The current uses received from federal agency contacts as part of the 2014 ACS Content Review, as well as informational materials (FAQs, current question versions\(^2\), etc.) are posted with this memorandum at [http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/planning-management/memo-series.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/planning-management/memo-series.html). Federal agencies with known uses of the 2020 Census or ACS content, and select other agencies, will receive a letter with instructions for how federal data users may provide updates to the documentation of data uses. Responses should be received before July 1, 2016. Census Bureau staff may follow-up with federal users directly if more clarification is required.

Members of the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Interagency Committee on the ACS and Interagency Committee on Statistical Policy Subcommittee on the ACS will be notified about this effort and encouraged to collaborate within their agencies on confirming existing uses, or submitting corrections and additions.

Though this initial effort will take place in 2016, additional follow-up may be needed in 2017 if changes to the content warrant another check-in with agencies.

Additionally, all interested stakeholders will be able to comment on the *Federal Register* notices related to proposed changes in the content.

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\(^2\) Federal agency contacts should be aware that the topics and questions provided reflect past topics and questions (i.e., the topics and questions may change between the information gathering process and the final submission of the content).
Content Determination

This process assumes that there will be changes to the ACS content and that the 2020 Census content may also feature new or different questions. The development of this content, including proposals for new questions, will continue to follow the normal content development process (outside the scope of the development of the subjects and questions submission). However, it is important to note that these processes offer opportunities for all stakeholders to comment on the proposed subjects and questions.

In general, proposed changes to questions, proposed by federal agencies through OMB, must demonstrate a clear need for data at the geographic levels provided by the 2020 Census or ACS. OMB, the Census Bureau, and interagency committees (with federal agency representation) consider these proposals, conduct qualitative research and testing, and evaluate the resulting estimates. Final proposed questions are based on the results of extensive cognitive testing, field testing, other ongoing research, and input from advisory committees.

To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) and its implementing regulations, the Census Bureau must submit an Information Collection Request (ICR) to OMB. This set of documents describes the information needed, why it is needed, how it will be collected, and how much collecting the information will cost the respondents and the government.

Before an ICR is submitted, the Census Bureau will publish a *Federal Register* notice informing the public of an intent to ask for clearance for the collection of information and soliciting comments for a 60 day period. Census Bureau staff then respond to comments received, and make necessary revisions.

When the final ICR is prepared, a second *Federal Register* notice is published. This second opportunity for public comment notifies the public that the clearance request has been submitted to OMB and they have an opportunity to comment. OMB reviews the ICR and public comments over a 60-day period, and determines whether or not to authorize the change.

ICRs for the 2020 Census and ACS are planned for 2018. The ACS submission will include a plan to incorporate questions developed for the 2020 Census along with changes recommended by the 2016 ACS Content Test. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment on these potential changes during the *Federal Register* notice comment periods.

If the ICRs are finalized before the March 31, 2018 submission to Congress, the *Questions Planned for the 2020 Census* will reflect only content that has been approved by OMB. Alternatively, content that has not been authorized by OMB will be noted as “proposed” in the submission.

Final Product

The final *Subjects for the 2020 Census Program* and *Questions for the 2020 Census Program* documents will be printed and submitted to Congress. Additional .pdf versions of these documents and supporting materials will concurrently be made available on the census.gov website.
The 2020 Census Memorandum Series

The 2020 Census Memorandum Series documents significant decisions, actions, and accomplishments of the 2020 Census Program for the purpose of informing stakeholders, coordinating interdivisional efforts, and documenting important historical changes.

A memorandum generally will be added to this series for any decision that meets the following criteria:

1. A major program-level decision that will affect the overall design or have a significant effect on the 2020 Census operations or systems.

2. A major policy decision or change that will affect the overall design or significantly impact the 2020 Census operations or systems.

Visit 2020 Census on census.gov to access the Memorandum Series, the 2020 Operational Plan, and other information about preparations for the 2020 Census.
Appendix A: Subjects Planned for the 2010 Census and American Community Survey
Federal Legislative and Program Uses (Age)

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Age is central for any number of federal programs that target funds or services to children, working-age adults, women of childbearing age, or the older population. The Department of Education uses census age data in its formula for allotment to states. Under the Voting Rights Act, the data on population of voting age are required for legislative redistricting. The Department of Veterans Affairs uses age to develop its mandated state projections on the need for hospitals, nursing homes, cemeteries, domiciliary services, and other benefits for veterans.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Education
Counties and school districts are allotted funds based on age data. These funds provide resources and services to improve the education of economically disadvantaged children and children with disabilities.

Locations where new schools are needed, as well as the required grade levels (elementary, middle, or high school) are identified using data about age.

Government
Data presenting the voting-age population are used by states to meet legislative redistricting requirements.

Planners at all levels of government forecast the need for highways, hospitals, health services, and retirement homes by using age data.

Employment
Data about age are used to target veterans for job training programs.

Equal employment opportunities are enforced using data about age.

Social Services
Age data are used to forecast the number of people eligible for Social Security and Medicare benefits.

Under the Older Americans Act, age data are part of the formula used to allocate funds for services to seniors with low incomes.
## SELECTED STATUTORY USES

### EDUCATION

- Individuals With Disabilities Education Act
  
  [20 U.S.C. 1411(e), Chapter 33, Subchapter II],
- Vocational and Technical Education Assistance to the States
  
  [20 U.S.C. 2321(a)(2)(A), (B), & (C) and 2372(a)],
- School-to-Work Opportunities Act
  
  [20 U.S.C. 6145 & 6177, Chapter 69, Subchapter II-Part B and Subchapter III]

### EEOC

- Age Discrimination and Employment Act
  
  [29 U.S.C. 623 & 633; 29 CFR 1625.7(c)]

### HHS

- Older Americans Act
  
  [42 U.S.C. 3002(28)-(30), 3025(a)(1)(E) & (2)(E), and 3026(a)(1)],
- Public Health Service Act
  
  [42 U.S.C. 254(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d) & 254f-1],
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
  
  [42 U.S.C. 8629(a) & (b)(2), and 8622(11)]

### HUD

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
  
  [42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(6)(D)(iv)]

### JUSTICE

- Voting Rights Act-Bilingual Election Requirements
  
  [42 U.S.C. 1973aa-1a; 28 CFR Part 55],
- Civil Rights Act (Unlawful Employment Practices)
  

### LABOR

- Workforce Investment Act of 1998
  
  [P.L. 105-220, Sec. 182(a)]

### VA

- State Projections of Veteran Population
  
  [38 U.S.C. 8131(1) & 8134(a)(2)],
- Veterans Benefits Improvement Act
  
  [38 U.S.C. 317 & 318, Chapter 3],
- Disabled Veterans Outreach Program
  
  [38 U.S.C. 4103A(a)(1), Chapter 41]

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**Note:** These statutory uses were last confirmed in 2002. Work is underway with other Federal agencies to develop a comprehensive list of the most current statutory uses supporting each 2010 Census and American Community Survey question. An updated list will be included in the March 2008 submission of Questions Planned for the 2010 Census and American Community Survey.

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**Appendix B:** Questions Planned for the 2010 Census and American Community Survey
Federal Legislative and Program Uses (Age)

7. What is Person 1’s age and what is Person 1’s date of birth?
   Please report babies as age 0 when the child is less than 1 year old.
   Print numbers in boxes.

   Age on April 1, 2010
   Month Day Year of birth

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