

November 6, 2017

The Honorable Rick Scott  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001  
VIA EMAIL: [Rick.Scott@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:Rick.Scott@eog.myflorida.com)

Dear Governor Scott,

We, the below signed organizations, write to urge Florida to participate in the Local Update of Census Addresses (“LUCA”) program in partnership with the United States Census Bureau. Over **\$600 billion per year** is distributed to communities across the United States based on Census data. This funding includes money for infrastructure and roads, health care, schools, and more. In Florida, the amount of funds distributed by the sixteen largest federal assistance programs on basis of decennial census information totals \$29,283,302,687 according to the George Washington University Institute of Public Policy (attached). The more accurate the Census count is in Florida, the more likely our state is to get the resources that it needs and deserves to serve community members. Ensuring that the Bureau has an accurate address list is the first step to ensuring an accurate 2020 Census.

The Census is also important in that it reapportions the 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives. Ensuring an accurate count in the Census translates to a more accurate representation in Congress and ensuring Florida gets the fair amount of congressional seats allotted.

Congress created the LUCA program in 1994 to allow state and local governments to help ensure the address list for the census is up to date and accurate. In between each decennial census, the landscape across the country can change dramatically. People move. New developments are planned. Buildings are repurposed. Because the Census Bureau distributes the census based on addresses, and not to individuals, it is essential that these local changes be reflected in the official Master Address File. Without knowledge of these changes, people are at risk of not receiving the Census.

The LUCA program is your opportunity to participate and ensure that every address in Florida has an opportunity to be counted on the 2020 Census. As the governor of Florida, your executive agencies have the knowledge of Florida necessary to aid the 67 counties’ preparation work have the knowledge of Florida necessary to ensure that addresses that could easily be overlooked, including non-traditional quarters and rural or camouflaged homes, are included in the Master Address File. While the Department of Economic Opportunity will need to devote resources to adequately review and respond to the materials you will receive as a part of the LUCA program, we are ready and able to work with you to help identify areas that could be easily overlooked for address updates. We regularly work with communities that the Census Bureau traditionally finds “hard to count,” including low-income communities, communities of color, limited English

proficient communities, and immigrant communities. As trusted voices within these communities, we can partner with you to ensure that they are represented in the LUCA process. The Center for Urban Research at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY) has produced a searchable online map that identifies communities whose demographics and other characteristics qualify them as “hard-to-count” for purposes of the 2020 Census. Being undercounted can rob communities of fair political representation as well as an equitable share of the resources for education, housing, and other community needs that are distributed annually based on census data. The interactive Hard-to-Count map is available at <http://www.censushardtocountmaps2020.us/>

You should have received a letter this summer from the Census Bureau discussing the LUCA program and encouraging you to register. If you need more information you can find it on the Census Bureau website at <https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/luca.html>. The deadline to sign up is December 15, 2017. We will be following up with your office on this request by December 1, 2017. We sincerely hope that you will participate in the LUCA program and look forward to working with you to ensure all households are properly identified for the 2020 Census.

Sincerely,

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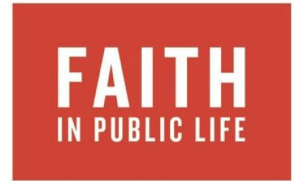
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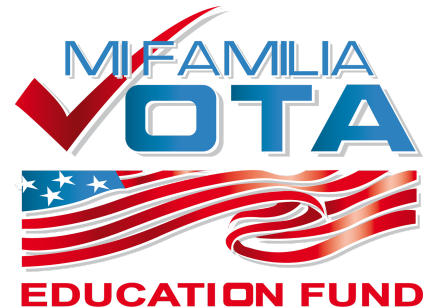
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Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates, Inc.



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