GTCF 2020 Census Community Grants
Frequently Asked Questions

Greater Tacoma Community Foundation is providing funding for outreach and education to encourage participation in the 2020 Census. The purpose is to use this moment-in-time awareness and action to build connective tissue, trusted relationships and channels for communication, across diverse voices in Pierce County.

Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate how the grant funds will improve relationships with leaders, networks, associations, and organizations across geographic, mission, and demographic sectors, yielding long-term connections to, and trust with, hard-to-count populations. Hard-to-count communities include indigenous peoples, immigrant/refugees, LGBTQIA, low-income, non-English speakers, people of color, persons experiencing homelessness, persons with mental or physical disabilities, renters (housing), rural communities, senior citizens (over 65 years), young persons (under 18 years), children (0-5 years), military, and those attending postsecondary institutions.

For more information on "hard-to-count" communities, please visit:
https://www.censushardtocountmaps2020.us/

GENERAL

WHAT ARE THESE GRANTS FOR?

Grants will fund innovative efforts that can reach historically hard-to-count populations in order to increase awareness of, and participation in, the 2020 Census.

HOW CAN THESE GRANTS BE USED?

GTCF Census grants can be used for communications, outreach materials, community gatherings, staffing, travel, interpretation/translation, and other expenses to reach hard-to-count populations through networks', organizations', and associations' regular course of business.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Tribes, local government, networks, organizations, associations and collaborative networks whose members, clients, and constituencies include hard-to-count populations serving communities in Pierce County.

Applications must name a fiscal sponsor or lead organization to receive funding.

WHAT ARE HARD-TO-COUNT POPULATIONS?

As defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, hard-to-count communities are populations that have been missed at higher rates in past census counts. Their research shows that hard-to-count populations include:

- Children (0-5 years)
- Immigrants and Refugees
- Indigenous Peoples
- LGBTQIA
- Low-income
- Military
- Non-English Speakers
- People of Color
- Persons Experiencing Homelessness
- Persons with Mental or Physical Disabilities
- Renters (housing)
- Rural Communities
- Senior Citizens (over 65 years)
- Those Attending Postsecondary Institutions
- Young Persons (under 18 years)

For more information on "hard-to-count" communities, please visit: https://www.censushardtocountmaps2020.us/

How much funding is available?

$400,000 is available for regranting in Pierce County.

- Individual organizations may apply for funding requests up to $10,000.
- Collaborative associations and networks may apply for funding requests above $10,000.

Do I have to be a 501c3 to receive funding?

For the purpose of continuity, the term "organization" will be used throughout the FAQ and application.

An organization does not have to be a 501c3 to receive funding. Collaborative networks, LLCs, and more can apply for funding.

If an organization is not a 501c3, a fiscal sponsor is required. It is suggested that there is a written agreement between the organization and fiscal sponsor to demonstrate commitment.

Grants __cannot__ be made to a single individual.

What can the funds be used for?

2020 Census grants may be used for: communications, collateral, community gatherings, and staffing to reach hard-to-count populations through networks', organizations', and associations' regular course of business.

Successful applicants will be able to show a correlation between the "2020 Census Work Plan" and their budget request.

When must the funds be spent by?

Funds applied for must be spent by April 30, 2020.

What is the commitment?

Grantees will be required to follow GTCF reporting outlines, as well as participate in two 2020 Census community cohort sessions.

Dates for the cohort will be February 20 and April 7, 2020.

What will grantees receive?

Grantees will have the opportunity to attend a grant informational session, as well as access to technical assistance for the application with GTCF staff. Grantees will also receive networking and capacity building support through the community cohort.

What is the reporting process?

Grantees will be asked to complete a 2020 Census Work Plan Template (located on application) to document activities and work. Grantees will also be asked to submit the work plan and budget specific to their organization's funding request. Organizations will also be required to participate in the two cohort meetings as part of the reporting process.

GRANT APPLICATION

How do I fill out the application?

The grant application can be found at this link:
https://www.grantinterface.com/home/logon?urlkey=gtcf

If you have previously applied with GTCF for a grant, you will be able to use your same username and password to login and apply again. If this is your first time applying, you will need to create a new account.

If my organization received funding from the state or any other entity for the 2020 Census, can we still apply for this grant?

Yes, an organization previously funded by the state or any other entity for the 2020 Census can apply for GTCF funding.

What information do I need for the application?

Grantees will also be asked to submit the work plan and budget specific to their organization's funding request.

What are examples of projects or activities that could be funded by this grant?

Think of programming, activities, events, services, etc. that your organization already has planned January to April 2020 and how key messages will be used to increase awareness.

Using the "2020 Census Work Plan Template" (located in application), share how your organization will enhance existing programming and activities.

Example ideas include, but are not limited to:
- A student group creates swag with messages about how census impacts transportation and financial aid.

- A faith-based space puts a message in their bulletin and the Pastor talks about the importance to the neighborhood and the 2020 Census.

- A community coalition hosts a census workshop with food and census resources at their monthly meeting.

- A nonprofit organization hosts a town hall focused on disability access and its relation to the 2020 Census.

- A local organization working with immigrants and refugees' train and support trusted messengers.

- A large collaborative network provides 2020 Census resources to their communities of interest.

Outreach Material Ideas

- Frequent social media posts
- Talk about 2020 Census on the radio or television
- Swag (t-shirts, buttons, stickers, etc.)
- Publish in organization's newsletter
- Create a video or song
- Print off flyers to hand out at an event or your organization

What happens when the application is completed?

Grantees will receive an email from the online portal system saying their application has been submitted. If your organization does not receive an email, please contact grants@gtcf.org

GTCF may have additional questions for applications and will follow up via email. If you do not receive an email from GTCF, assume there are no questions regarding your application.

A grant committee comprised of local community members will review the applications and notifications will be sent out to successful and unsuccessful applicants on November 21, 2019 using the email associated with the original application.

Who can I contact if I have questions about the application process?

Grant portal technical assistance: Jason Hamman, Grants Administrator, jhamman@gtcf.org

Application and content questions: grants@gtcf.org

GRANT TIMELINE

When do applications open?

September 30, 2019

When are applications due?

Applications must be submitted no later than October 20, 2019 at 11:59pm.

When will applicants be notified?

Applicants will be notified on November 21, 2019 via email using the account and email registered with the grant portal.

When will grants be paid?

Grants will be processed on December 15, 2019.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Will there be information sessions about grant process?

GTCF will host two grantee application information sessions on:

October 3, 2019 2:30 – 3:30pm

Lakewood Library, Lakewood Room

6300 Wildaire Rd SW, Lakewood, WA 98498

[Register Here](#)

October 8, 2019 9:30 – 10:30am

Pierce County Library Administrative Building

Meeting room B/C

3009 112th St. E, Puyallup, WA 98372

[Register Here](#)

What resources are available to support organizations in applying?

GTCF will host technical assistance hours via phone during the following times:

October 7, 2019 9:00am – 2:00pm

October 11, 2019 9:00am – 2:00pm

October 18, 2019 10:00am – 1:00pm

Sign up for Technical Assistance times [here](#).

There are also other great community resources out there to support organizational capacity including:

- [Puget Sound Grantwriters Association](#)
- [501 Commons](#)
- [Shunpike](#)

OTHER CENSUS INFO

When is the 2020 Census?

Census Day is April 1, 2020. This is a key date for the 2020 count: When completing the census, you'll note where you are living on April 1, 2020.

How do people fill out the census?

By April 1, 2020, households will receive an invitation to participate in the census. You will then have three ways to respond:

- o Online
- o By phone
- o By mail

This marks the first time that you'll have the option to respond online.

Why is there a census?

The results of the census determine your congressional representation as well as federal funding for states and communities. Every year, more than $675 billion goes toward hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and more.

It's also mandated by the Constitution: The United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.

Who must complete the census?

If you live in the United States, you are required by law to participate in the 2020 count, even if you recently completed another survey from the Census Bureau. A complete and accurate count is critical, as the results of the 2020 Census will affect congressional representation, community funding, and more.

Where can I get more information about the census?

- [Pierce County Auditor's 2020 Census Webpage](#)
- [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

What other resources are available for the 2020 Census?

- [Pierce County 2020 Census Communications Toolkit](#) (available in 11 languages)
- [Pierce County 2020 Census: You Count! Video](#)
- RocktheVote.org/WeCount video: [The Census is about Power and Money](#)
- [State of Washington Office of Financial Management](#)
- [Washington Nonprofits](#)
- [Philanthropy Northwest](#)