

2020 Census Count Question Resolution Key Questions Document

Last Updated: October 25, 2021

Summary

MMC and the U.S. Census Bureau hosted a discussion on the Count Question Resolution process on Tuesday, October 19. The Bureau staff has shared its Powerpoint from that presentation. This accompanying document answers those key questions asked during the call as well as contact information for further clarification.

Key Questions

What is the deadline to submit a Count Question Resolution (CQR)?

Localities may file a CQR case in January 2022 and the deadline to file extends until June 30, 2023. The

- December 2021: Notify state and local governments eligible to file CQR cases
- January 2022: Begin accepting CQR cases for processing from eligible governments
- June 30, 2023: Deadline for localities to send CQR cases to the Census Bureau
- September 30, 2023: Deadline for the Census Bureau to provide results to impacted governmental units

When can localities expect a resolution on a CQR case?

Localities may expect resolution on their CQR case after filing. The Census Bureau will review and make determinations as cases are submitted. September 30, 2023 is the deadline for the Census Bureau to provide results for localities that have filed, but municipalities may receive a determination before this date.

The presentation notes that the Census Bureau will notify state and local governments eligible to file CQR cases in December. How do localities become eligible?

All units of government will be eligible to file.

Is the initial notification to the Census Bureau a letter?

Yes. The municipality should file a CQR with a letter that identifies the suspected error. This letter should be signed by the Mayor or President of the locality.

Will an update to population data affect a locality's revenue from the State Local Government Distributive Fund or federal formula programs like CDBG?

If a CQR results in a change in population, it will be an official count from the U.S. Census Bureau. This means that it will be in effect for the LGDF as well as for federal formula programs such as Community Development Block Grants. We have asked the state when it intends to begin using these counts for the LGDF.

The presentation notes several different kinds of technical errors that could lead to a count correction (slide 6). How would a municipality know if one of these errors occurred in order to file a challenge?

The locality does not need to flag the nature of a suspected error when filing a CQR. When a municipality files a CQR, it should simply point out the error that it sees, such as housing units in a particular block not aligning with recent permit data. The U.S. Census Bureau will identify the technical error as it makes determinations for each CQR.

Can cases be filed for more than one category of error?

The municipality does not need to identify the category of CQR, just the error that it sees (as noted above). The U.S. Census Bureau will identify the category of technical error to address.

In some CQR determinations, the Bureau may find a coding error which will redistribute population from a neighboring locality to another. Will a locality be notified if its neighbor files a CQR?

The Census Bureau will not inform the neighboring locality in these instances.

When will municipalities receive their housing unit counts to determine a discrepancy that would lead to a CQR filing?

This is available now on the census.gov website. Contrary to prior reports, this will not be sent to localities via flash drive. The U.S. Census Bureau staff is available to provide technical assistance to review it.

What if a locality notices a discrepancy between its Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) and the count of housing units?

The LUCA was used in 2018 to build the addresses for the count but should not be considered a current document. The U.S. Census Bureau asks localities to use their 2020 counts for their most current information.

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