

Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens

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**Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens Announced as Complete Count Fund Awardee
Joining Citywide Effort to Ensure a Fair and Complete Count**

New York, NY— Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens is pleased to announce it has received a \$100,000 award from the NYC Complete Count Fund — a partnership between CUNY, Mayor Bill de Blasio and the New York City Council. The NYC Complete Count Fund is a first-of-its-kind Census-related community organizing program that will support and resource community-based organizations to help NYC reach a full and accurate count in the 2020 Census. These funds will support the “Together We Are Greater” Project.

The Complete Count Fund was built with the understanding that local community-based organizations — which serve New Yorkers in the communities where they live and in the languages that they speak — are the most trusted messengers of important and sensitive information.

Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens is proud to join this coordinated citywide effort to build awareness about the census, convey its importance, fight the spread of mis- and disinformation, and help bridge the digital divide that might prevent many New Yorkers from participating in next year’s first online census.

Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens (BGCMQ) is the only large community-based organization serving youth, young adults and families in the Queens community-board district 9. BGCMQ has a responsibility to advocate for the needs of young people, their families and neighbors. Economic equity is a major issue reflected in the Club’s vision “to guide all members through the Metro Queens Pipeline that nurtures young people and their families continuously from PreK through college.” This vision is only accomplished with active collaboration of all the Club’s neighbors and stakeholders which is why their Census 2020 program is called “Together We Are Greater”.

“Funding allows Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens to deepen its impact in the South Richmond Hill area and leverage the relationships the Club has built in the community over the past 60 years. This is an opportunity for our community to receive much needed dollars that an accurately reported census will bring” said David Kupecky, Executive Director of Boys & Girls club of Metro Queens.

A complete and accurate count is critical to the future of New York City. The census will determine how more than \$650 billion in federal funds for public education, public housing, roads and bridges, and more, gets distributed annually throughout the country. It will also determine the number of seats each state is allocated in the House of Representatives (and thus, the Electoral College). Based on current estimates, an undercount could cost the State of New York up to two congressional seats.

In such a complex city, enriched by such linguistic and cultural diversity, New York City's full participation in the first online census faces a unique set of challenges. As New Yorkers, we have embraced these challenges as an opportunity. Together, these citywide efforts will lay the groundwork for a civic engagement apparatus that will continue well beyond the 2020 census.

The Complete Count Fund will launch in early January with an all-day kick-off event and training.

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About Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens

For over 60 years, Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens has inspired and enabled all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens. BGCMQ provides quality afterschool programs that enhance the educational, emotional, social, and physical development of youth. Members seek refuge in the Club and benefit from its safe, stable and positive environment, supportive staff, and engaging, constructive activities. The Club serves youth between the ages of 4 and 18 annually, averaging over 950 children per day, from Richmond Hill, South Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, South Ozone Park, Woodhaven, Jamaica, Howard Beach, Kew Gardens, and parts of Brooklyn.

About NYC Census 2020

NYC Census 2020 was established as a first-of-its-kind organizing initiative by Mayor de Blasio to ensure a complete and accurate count of all New Yorkers in the 2020 Census. The program is built on four pillars: (1) a community-based awards program, The New York City Complete Count Fund; (2) an in-house "Get Out the Count" field campaign; (3) an innovative, multi-lingual, tailored messaging and marketing; as well as (4) an in-depth Agency and Partnerships engagement plan that seeks to leverage the power of the City's 350,000-strong workforce and the city's major institutions, including libraries, hospitals, faith-based, cultural institutions, and higher educational institutions, and more, to communicate with New Yorkers about the critical importance of census participation.