Libraries, Digital Equity, and the 2020 Census
Digital Equity

Individuals and communities have IT capacity for full participation in society, democracy and economy.
Digital Inclusion

Activities necessary for full participation:

- Affordable home broadband
- Appropriate devices
- Digital literacy
- Tech support
- Applications
33% Americans - no home broadband

Pew Research Center 2015
18 - 22% New York households – no home broadband

U.S. Census American Community Survey 2017
35%

New York households at/below $35K - no home broadband

U.S. Census American Community Survey 2017
Worst Connected Cities

- #10 Syracuse (24% households without broadband)
- #21 Rochester (20% households without broadband)

U.S. Census American Community Survey 2017
Disparities in Access
Libraries & Digital Inclusion

- Libraries provide internet access to the nearly 20% of New Yorkers who lack broadband at home
- Mobile hotspot lending programs
- Digital literacy training
- Commitment to digital security and privacy
2020 Census

- 80% of households will be asked to complete the Census online.

- “Hard to Count” communities are also digitally excluded communities.

- Libraries are trusted institutions and are well-positioned to educate and inform members of the public about the 2020 census. In New York, 99% of hard to count populations live within 1 mile of a public library.

- Libraries are committed to digital security and online privacy. Libraries can help community members understand how the online census works, what risks are inherent in the process, and how the library has helped to mitigate those risks.
Resources and How You Can Help

The State Library has a list of Census 2020 resources on its website including guides for libraries, publications and reports, webinars, resources for educators and partners, and information on newsletters and email lists:

THANK YOU!