

Definitions for Grant Writing and Community Assessment

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Race

- Based on self-identification
- The racial categories included in the census questionnaire generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in this country and not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically
- People may select more than one race to indicate their racial mixture, such as “American Indian” and “White”
- The ability to select more than one race was introduced in the 2000 census. Therefore, race counts for 2000 and 2010 are not directly comparable to counts for the 1990 census and earlier
- Hispanic is an ethnicity, NOT a race
- Data are usually reported for six major race categories (White; Black or African American; American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; and Some Other Race)

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Race “Alone”

- People who reported a single entry (e.g., Korean or Black) and no other race
- People who reported two or more entries within the same major race group (e.g., Asian). For example, respondents who reported Korean and Vietnamese are part of the larger “Asian alone” race group
- Data tables will include “alone” in the name, for example, “White alone” or “Some Other Race alone”
- The race “alone” groups will include Hispanics unless specifically labeled “not Hispanic or Latino”. So “White alone” will include Hispanics who are also White but “White alone, not Hispanic or Latino” will not include White Hispanics

Race “Alone or in any combination”

- People who reported a single race alone (e.g., Asian) **AND** people who reported that race in combination with one or more of the other major race groups
- Data tabulations are usually referred to as “tallies”
- Represents the maximum number of people who reported as that race group, either alone or in combination with one or more additional race(s)
- The sum of the six individual race “alone-or-in-combination” categories add to **more than the total population** because people who reported more than one race were tallied in each race category
- Applies to detailed race groups, such as American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and detailed Asian and Pacific Islander groups. For example, Korean alone or in any combination includes people who reported a single response (e.g., Korean), people who reported Korean and another Asian group (e.g., Korean and Vietnamese), and people who reported Korean in combination with one or more other non-Asian race groups

Hispanic or Latino

- Based on self-identification
- Hispanic is an ethnicity, NOT a race. It is asked in a separate question from race. Everyone is asked both the race and the Hispanic origin question

→ NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 8 about Hispanic origin and Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.

8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Cuban
- Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin — *Print origin, for example, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.* ↴

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Income Definition

Official

- Gross (before-tax) cash income from all sources

Supplemental

- Gross money income
- PLUS value of near-money federal in-kind benefits for FCSU
 - SNAP, school lunch, WIC
 - Housing subsidies
 - LIHEAP
 - Tax credits (EITC)
- MINUS federal and state income and payroll taxes and other nondiscretionary expenses
 - Child care and other work expenses
 - Medical out of pocket expenses
 - Child support paid

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Income in the Past 12 Months

- “Total income” is the sum of the amounts reported separately for:
 - Wage or salary income (wages, salary, Armed Forces pay, commissions, tips, piece-rate payments, and cash bonuses)
 - Net self-employment income
 - Interest, dividends, or net rental or royalty income or income from estates and trusts
 - Social Security or Railroad Retirement income
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Public assistance or welfare payments
 - Retirement, survivor, or disability pensions
 - All other income (unemployment compensation, worker’s compensation, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) payments, alimony and child support, etc.)
- Income includes **cash income** only - noncash benefits such as Food Stamps are not included
- Income is tabulated for persons 15 years old and over



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Income – ACS vs. Census 2000

- Caution should be exercised when comparing ACS income data to the decennial census and the ACS from one year to the next
- ACS and the 2000 Census do not ask the Income question using the same reference period
- The ACS collects data throughout the year on an on-going, monthly basis and asks for a respondent’s income over the “past 12 months.” So, the 2010 ACS 1-year data reflect incomes over 2009-2010. In Jan 2010, the 12-month period is Jan-Dec 2009 and in Dec 2010, Dec 2009-Nov 2010
- Census 2000, however, collected the income data for a fixed period of time -- “during 1999” (the last calendar year)
- In the ACS, monthly Consumer Price Indices (CPI) factors were used to inflation-adjust income components to a reference calendar year (January through December)

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Measures of Income

- **Household Income** – This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not
- **Family Income** – In compiling statistics on family income, the incomes of all members 15 years old and over related to the householder are summed and treated as a single amount
- Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income
- **Income of Individuals** – Income for individuals is obtained by summing the eight types of income for each person 15 years old and over. (sometimes called personal income)
- **Earnings** - Earnings are defined as the sum of wage or salary income and net income from self-employment. “Earnings” represent the amount of income received regularly for people 16 years old and over before deductions

Measures of Income

- **Median Income** - divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median income and one-half above the median. For households and families, total number of households and families includes those with no income
- **Mean Income** – the amount obtained by dividing the aggregate income of a particular statistical universe by the number of units in that universe (Arithmetic average)
- Because the mean is influenced strongly by extreme values in the distribution, it is especially susceptible to the effects of sampling variability, misreporting, and processing errors. The median is not affected by extreme values and therefore is a better measure than the mean when the population base is small
- **Gini Index of Income Inequality** – The Gini index of income inequality measures how much a distribution varies from a proportionate distribution. The Gini ranges from zero (perfect equality - all households have an equal share of income) to one (perfect inequality – one household has all the income)

Inflation Adjustment

- Dollar-valued data items are inflation adjusted to the most recent year for the period
 - Income, rent, home value, and energy costs, etc.
- Adjusted using inflation factors based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- Adjustment designed to put the data into dollars with equal purchasing power

Poverty Status

- The Census Bureau uses a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. These thresholds are available at www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html
- The same thresholds are used for all poverty determinations in the United States. There are no adjustments by geography
- Poverty status is determined for families using the total family income in the past 12 months. If the total income of the family is less than the threshold appropriate for that family, then everyone in that family is considered “below the poverty level”
- For unrelated individuals over 15 years old, poverty is determined using the individual’s personal income. If the total income of an unrelated individual (in either a family or nonfamily household) is less than the appropriate threshold for one person, then that individual is considered to be “in poverty”

2012 Poverty Thresholds

Poverty Thresholds for 2013 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years

Size of family unit	Related children under 18 years								
	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
One person (unrelated individual).....									
Under 65 years.....	12,119								
65 years and over.....	11,173								
Two people.....									
Householder under 65 years.....	15,600	16,057							
Householder 65 years and over.....	14,081	15,996							
Three people.....	18,222	18,751	18,769						
Four people.....	24,028	24,421	23,624	23,707					
Five people.....	28,977	29,398	28,498	27,801	27,376				
Six people.....	33,329	33,461	32,771	32,110	31,128	30,545			
Seven people.....	38,349	38,588	37,763	37,187	36,115	34,865	33,493		
Eight people.....	42,890	43,269	42,490	41,807	40,839	39,610	38,331	38,006	
Nine people or more.....	51,594	51,844	51,154	50,575	49,625	48,317	47,134	46,842	45,037

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Persons for Whom Poverty is Determined

- Poverty status is determined for families and for unrelated individuals
- **VERY IMPORTANT:** Poverty status is determined for all people **except** institutionalized people, people in military group quarters, people in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old
- When calculating the percent of persons in poverty or “poverty rate,” you must use the correct denominator. Both the numerator and denominator when calculating poverty rates should be “persons for whom poverty is determined,” NOT the total population
- Use data from the same table for the numerator and denominator

100%, 150%, 200% . . .

- In poverty tabulations in the ACS, “below poverty level” or “persons in poverty” means “below 100% of poverty level.” This level uses the thresholds as specified in the family size by number of children matrix
- The poverty ratios show persons by “adjusted” poverty level. So for example for 200% of poverty, instead of being below the number shown in the threshold matrix, the threshold is multiplied by 2 and the result is the threshold used to determine poverty status
- In ACS tabulations, pay attention to the labels – in some tables, the ratio of income to poverty levels are in ranges, not cumulative

Housing Units

- A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarter
- Classified as Occupied or Vacant
- Occupied Housing Units are also called “Households”
- Nontraditional living quarters such as boats, RVs, and tents are considered to be housing units **only** if someone is living in them and they are either the occupant’s usual residence or the occupant has no usual residence elsewhere



Housing: Tenure

- Occupied housing units are grouped by ownership - called “tenure”
- A housing unit is **owner occupied** if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit. They are also classified on whether or not they have a mortgage
- All occupied housing units which are not owner occupied, whether they are rented or occupied without payment of rent, are classified as **renter occupied**

Housing: Structural Characteristics

- Number of bedrooms
- Business on property (*business must be easily recognizable from the outside*)
- House heating fuel (*gas, electricity, coal, solar, etc.*)
- Kitchen facilities (*a sink with a faucet, stove, and refrigerator*)
- Plumbing facilities (*hot and cold running water, a flush toilet, and a bathtub or shower*)
- Number of rooms (*used to calculate overcrowding*)
- Telephone service available
- Units in structure or type of structure
- Year structure built



Financial Characteristics for Owner-Occupied Units

- ▶ Condominium status and fee
- ▶ Mobile home costs
- ▶ Mortgage status and payment *(includes everything paid to the lender)*
- ▶ Second or junior mortgage payments or home equity loan
- ▶ Insurance for fire, hazard, and flood
- ▶ Real estate taxes
- ▶ Utilities costs
- ▶ Value *(Respondent's estimate of how much the property -- house and lot, mobile home and lot, or condominium unit -- would sell for if it were for sale)*



Occupants Per Room

- ▶ Occupants per room is obtained by dividing the reported number of current residents in each occupied housing unit by the number of rooms in the unit.
- ▶ The figures show the number of occupied units having the specified ratio of current residents per room.
- ▶ Occupants per room is rounded to the nearest hundredth.
- ▶ This data is the basis for estimating the amount of living and sleeping spaces within a housing unit.
- ▶ The data also serve to aid in planning for future services and infrastructure, such as home energy assistance programs and the development of waste treatment facilities.
- ▶ Overcrowding is 1.01 or more persons per room.

Rooms

- ▶ For each unit, rooms include living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, bedrooms, finished recreation rooms, enclosed porches suitable for year-round use, and lodger's rooms.
- ▶ Excluded are strip or pullman kitchens, bathrooms, open porches, balconies, halls or foyers, half-rooms, utility rooms, unfinished attics or basements, or other unfinished space used for storage.
- ▶ A partially divided room is a separate room only if there is a partition from floor to ceiling, but not if the partition consists solely of shelves or cabinets.
- ▶ Rooms provide the basis for estimating the amount of living and sleeping spaces within a housing unit. These data allow officials to plan and allocate funding for additional housing to relieve crowded housing conditions.
- ▶ The data also serve to aid in planning for future services and infrastructure, such as home energy assistance programs and the development of waste treatment facilities.

Financial Characteristics for Renter-Occupied Units

- Rent
 - Contract rent = monthly rent agreed to or contracted for, regardless of any furnishings, utilities, fees, meals, or services that may be included.
 - Gross rent = the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities, meals, and fuels if these are paid by the renter.
- House heating fuel
- Meals included in rent
- Utilities costs



Monthly Housing Costs

- Selected monthly **owner** costs are the sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property (including payments for the first mortgage, second mortgages, home equity loans, and other junior mortgages); real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities (electricity, gas, and water and sewer); and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.)
- Gross rent is the comparable measure for renters
- Both of these are compared to the income for their respective household income to determine the portion of the income that is spent on housing. This is called "Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income" and "Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income"