



MINNESOTA COUNCIL  
ON FOUNDATIONS

*a community of grantmakers*

March 28, 2023

**Re: Funding the State Demographic Center**

Dear State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF) is a statewide association of grantmakers that is focused on ensuring Minnesota has a strong charitable sector and an inclusive democracy where everyone can be seen, counted, and heard. At MCF, one of our key advocacy priorities is strengthening democratic systems and civic participation. As part of this, we support state decisions and investments that will prepare Minnesota for a full 2030 census count.

**The Minnesota Council on Foundations is excited to see funding for the State Demographic Center in the HF1830 omnibus bill.**

The State Demographic Center is the key provider of demographic data and analysis for the state of Minnesota. Funding to increase staff capacity will allow the office to meet the current and growing demand for their service which serve all Minnesotans. During the 2020 census and 2021 redistricting cycle, MCF and our partners saw firsthand the increased demand for data access for communities to access and interpret social, economic, and demographic data. Knowing where to get data, how to interpret data, and knowing how to talk about data is critical to making informed decisions. Data access and training will empower community groups to tell their stories and communicate policy solutions that improve the quality of life for Minnesota children and families.

Thank you to the committee for your leadership in census priorities and investing in data access and training for communities. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I am happy to answer any questions or provide further information.

Sincerely,  
May Yang  
Public Policy Manager  
Minnesota Council on Foundations  
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