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Business Case

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Section A: Investment Summary Information

Investment Name	Unique Investment Identifier
Census - American Community Survey (ACS)	006-000400100

Investment Description

The American Community Survey has led to a simpler decennial census, provided more timely and relevant data between censuses, and led to widespread efficiencies throughout the federal statistical system.

Agency
Department of Commerce



Point of Contact
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Investment Type
Major IT Investments

Bureau
Bureau of the Census

Mission Support
Not Applicable

Shared Service Category
Not Applicable

Shared Service Identifier
Not Applicable

Date Investment First Submitted
09/20/2021

Date of Last Investment Detail Update
05/31/2022

Section B: Investment Detail

1. Briefly describe the investment's return on investment, including benefits internal and external to the government and outcomes achieved or planned.

Improved data quality and statistical reliability of information benefits policy, decision-making, and the annual allocation of more than \$675 billion of Federal funds. The Federal Government as well as the Census Bureau has already realized substantial programmatic benefits from the ACS. However, the benefits from increasing the quality of ACS data will extend to a wide variety of agencies and programs at Federal, state, local, and tribal levels. The following are examples of programs that will benefit from improved reliability of ACS estimates: >Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). Improve SAIPE estimates by about 1.4 percent, resulting in improved allocation of \$196 million annually. More small school districts will have a better chance of obtaining accurate and equitable allocations of Title I funds. >Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Improve the quality of the local-level ACS housing and journey-to-work statistics, two key statistics in the production of BEA's state and local area personal income statistics. BEA's state personal income is used by the Federal Government in formulas to distribute over \$226 billion annually to states. >Title III. In FY2009, Congress authorized over \$700 million in Title III funding for students with limited English proficiency (LEP). ACS data from the English ability questions and questions on place of birth and year of immigration are used to provide grants to states and school districts and to support the education of students with LEP. Improving the reliability of the ACS data would ensure that states receive allocations based on more accurate estimates of LEP and immigrant students living in the states.

Section C: Investment and Contracts

Public URLs

- www.census.gov/acs/www
- www2.census.gov/acs
- <http://Factfinder2.census.gov>

Contracts

- [YA1323-15-BU-0035](#)
- [YA1323-15-BU-0037](#)
- [YA1323-14-NC-0090](#)
- [YA1323-15-BU-0037](#)

Section D: Historic CIO Rating

CIO Rating	Date	Comments
4	Jun 28, 2022	ACS - The American Community Survey (ACS) Investment continues to support the Bureau's objective of collecting, processing, and releasing information to meet the constitutional and legislative mandates. This month's accomplishment: Completed baselining of tabulation software & hardware configuration for ACS 2021 products production. Completed ACS 2021 products production dry run. Completed the start of tabulations for ACS 2021 1-year estimates. The investment is executing as expected.
4	May 27, 2022	The American Community Survey (ACS) Investment continues to support the Bureau's objective of collecting, processing, and releasing information to meet the constitutional and legislative mandates. This month's accomplishment: Completed tabulation software testing on revised applications and systems. Completed specification testing for ACS 2021 review tools. Completed readiness review for ACS 2021 data products production. Continued SY2022 testing and development efforts. The investment is executing as expected.
4	Apr 27, 2022	The American Community Survey (ACS) Investment continues to support the Bureau's objective of collecting, processing, and releasing information to meet the constitutional and legislative mandates. This month's accomplishment: Completed submission of ACS 2021 data products package to Disclosure Review Board (DRB) for approval. Released ACS 2016-2020 5-year estimates, 5-year summary, and 5-year Narrative profiles (on ACS website). Released API, QuickFacts, Census.gov Search, and My Tribal Area (web apps) with the latest ACS 5-year estimates. The investment is executing as expected.
4	Mar 29, 2022	The American Community Survey (ACS) Investment continues to support the Bureau's objective of collecting, processing, and releasing information to meet the constitutional and legislative mandates. This month's accomplishment includes: Completed conducting specification testing on ACS 2021 new and modified data products. Completed production of ACS 2016-2020 5-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files and start verification. The investment is executing as expected.
4	Feb 24, 2022	The American Community Survey (ACS) Investment continues to support the Bureau's objective of collecting, processing, and releasing information to meet the constitutional and legislative mandates. This month's accomplishment includes: Completed the preparation of starting ACS 2021 specification testing. Completed ACS 2016-2020 5-year estimates (re-run). The investment is executing as expected.

CIO Rating	Date	Comments
4	Jan 27, 2022	The American Community Survey (ACS) Investment continues to support the Bureau's objective of collecting, processing, and releasing information to meet the constitutional and legislative mandates. This month's accomplishment includes: Completed review and approval of ACS 2021 data products changes and change requests. Completed review of ACS 2016-2020 5-year estimates. The investment is executing as expected.
4	Nov 30, 2021	The American Community Survey (ACS) Investment continues to support the Bureau's objective of collecting, processing, and releasing information to meet the constitutional and legislative mandates. Accomplishment: Completed release of the ACS 2020 1-year analytical report. Investment is also releasing ACS 2020 1-year experimental data sets for submission. Executing as expected.
4	Oct 27, 2021	The American Community Survey (ACS) Investment continues to support the Bureau's objective of collecting, processing, and releasing information to meet the constitutional and legislative mandates. This month's accomplishment - Produced ACS 2016-2020 5-year estimates and reviewed tools. Conducted internal reviews on the ACS 2016-2020 5-year estimates. Completed Data Year 2020 Post Data Collection (PDC) edits testing. Investment is also releasing ACS 2020 1-year experimental data sets for submission. Executing as expected.
4	Sep 28, 2021	The American Community Survey (ACS) Investment continues to support the Bureau's objective of collecting, processing, and releasing information to meet the constitutional and legislative mandates. This month's accomplishment include: Produced ACS 2016-2020 5-year estimates and reviewed tools. Conducted internal reviews on the ACS 2016-2020 5-year estimates. Investment is also releasing ACS 2020 1-year experimental data sets for submission. Executing as expected.

Data Last Updated On: 06/30/2022

Section E: Investment Spending

Table 1: Distribution by Spending Type			
Spending Type	PY 2021	CY 2022	BY 2023
DME Costs	1.634	1.46	1.768
O&M Costs	12.041	12.49	18.334
Total	13.675	13.95	20.102

Table 2: Distribution by Cost Pools			
Cost Pools	PY 2021	CY 2022	BY 2023
Internal Labor	11.741	12.19	17.152
External Labor	1.634	1.46	2.65
Outside Services	0	0	0
Hardware	0.05	0.05	0.05
Software	0	0	0
Facilities & Power	0	0	0
Telecom	0	0	0
Other	0.25	0.25	0.25
Internal Services	0	0	0
Totals	13.675	13.95	20.102

Cost in millions (M)

Table 3: Distribution by IT Towers			
IT Tower	PY 2021	CY 2022	BY 2023
Security & Compliance	0.275	0.275	0.275
IT Management	0	0	0
Network	0	0	0
Data	0	0	0
Compute	0.25	0.05	0.25
Storage	0.05	0	0.05
End User	0	0	0

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IT Tower	PY 2021	CY 2022	BY 2023
Output	0	0	0
Application	13.1	13.375	19.527
Delivery	0	0	0
Platform	0	0	0
Data Center	0	0.25	0
Totals	13.675	13.95	20.102

Cost in millions (M)

Data Last Updated On: 05/31/2022

Section F: Project and Activities Detail

Table 1: Project Details								
Project Name	Project UID	Status	Project Life Cycle Cost (\$M)	Cost Variance (%)	Start Date	End Date	Schedule Variance (%)	Schedule Variance (Days)
Enhancements and Improvements 5	4001Q15003	In Progress	1.45	-13	2020-10-01	2021-09-30	0	0
Enhancements and Improvements 6	4001Q15004	In Progress	1.5	12	2021-10-01	2022-09-30	0	0

Low

Medium

High

Table 2: Activity Details											
Unique Project ID	Activity Name	Activity Description	Planned Start Date	Projected Start Date	Actual Start Date	Planned Completion Date	Projected Completion Date	Actual Completion Date	Planned Total Cost (\$M)	Projected Total Cost (\$M)	Actual Total Cost (\$M)
4001Q15003	SY2022 Content Changes - Planning and Requirements	Test Plans, Requirements	2021-03-01	2021-03-01	2021-03-01	2021-04-30	2021-04-30	2021-04-30	0.1	0.1	0.11
4001Q15003	SY2022 Content Changes - Testing	Test Cases, Defect Reports, Test Reports	2021-05-01	2021-05-01	2021-05-01	2021-09-30	2021-09-30	2021-09-30	0.41	0.412	0.53
4001Q15003	DY2020 PDC-IT Testing	Test Cases, Defect Log, Requirements Traceability Matrix	2020-10-01	2020-10-01	2020-10-31	2021-03-31	2021-03-31	2021-04-11	0.28	0.403	0.34
4001Q15003	DY2020 PDC-IT Testing - Continued	Test Cases, Defect Log, Requirements Traceability Matrix	2021-04-01	2021-04-01	2021-04-01	2021-06-30	2021-06-30	2021-06-30	0.15	0.145	0.11
4001Q15003	DY2020 PDC-IT Test Planning	Requirements, Test Cases	2020-10-01	2020-10-01	2020-10-01	2020-11-30	2020-10-31	2020-11-30	0.14	0.161333	0.18
4001Q15003	DY2021 PDC-IT Test Planning	Requirements, Test Cases	2021-08-01	2021-08-01	2021-08-01	2021-09-30	2021-08-15	2021-08-15	0.12	0.075	0
4001Q15003	SY2021 Content Changes - Testing	Test Cases, Defect Reports, Test Reports	2020-10-01	2020-10-01	2020-10-01	2021-02-28	2021-02-28	2021-05-05	0.27	0.35	0.36

Unique Project ID	Activity Name	Activity Description	Planned Start Date	Projected Start Date	Actual Start Date	Planned Completion Date	Projected Completion Date	Actual Completion Date	Planned Total Cost (\$M)	Projected Total Cost (\$M)	Actual Total Cost (\$M)
4001Q15004	SY2022 Content Changes - Testing	Test Cases, Defect Reports, Test Reports.	2021-10-01	2021-10-01	2021-10-01	2022-02-28	2022-02-28	2022-02-28	0.35	0.223056	0.32
4001Q15004	SY2023 Content Changes - Planning and Requirements	Test Plans, Requirements	2022-03-01	2022-03-01	2022-03-01	2022-04-01	2022-04-30	2022-04-30	0.1	0.1	0.2
4001Q15004	DY2020 PDC-IT Testing	Test Cases, Defect Log, Requirements Traceability Matrix	2021-10-01	2021-10-01	2021-10-01	2021-10-31	2021-11-30	2021-11-30	0.2	0.166222	0.18
4001Q15004	DY2020 PDC-IT Test Planning	Requirements, Test Cases	2022-05-01	2022-05-01		2022-09-30	2022-09-30		0.32	0.3	0
4001Q15004	DY2020 PDC-IT Testing - Continued	Test Cases, Defect Log, Requirements Traceability Matrix	2021-10-01	2021-12-01	2021-11-30	2022-03-31	2022-03-31	2022-03-31	0.33	0.19	0.18
4001Q15004	DY2021 PDC-IT Test Planning	Requirements, Test Cases	2022-04-01	2022-04-01	2022-04-01	2022-06-30	2022-06-30		0.15	0.085	0.22
4001Q15004	DY2022 PDC-IT Test Planning	Requirements, Test Cases	2022-08-01	2022-08-01		2022-09-30	2022-09-30		0.05	0.051	0

Table 3: Project Related Details

Enhancements and Improvements 5

1. Are information technology investments adequately implementing incremental development methodology? (Y/N)

2. What is the frequency of incremental development iterations? (ex. 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months or greater)

3. Please describe the iterative development methodology being employed. (500 characters or less)

Enhancements and Improvements 6

1. Are information technology investments adequately implementing incremental development methodology? (Y/N)

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Frequently Asked Questions

https://www.itdashboard.gov/investment-business-case/006-000400100

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