

# ALASKA CENSUS WORKING GROUP

## Overview



### **The Foraker Group — Convener and Catalyst**

The Foraker Group serves as the state association and nonprofit capacity building organization for nonprofits and tribes across Alaska. We are dedicated to increasing the leadership and management skills of professionals and volunteers working for Alaska's nonprofit and tribal organizations. Advocacy is central to our mission, and we work strategically to influence public policy at the federal, state, and local levels.

Census Bureau data collection, particularly the 2020 Decennial Census and the annual American Community Survey (ACS), is a critical public policy issue for The Foraker Group's stakeholders and for the state as a whole. Following a national convening of funders and state nonprofit associations in 2016, the Foraker Group recognized the critical importance of accurate Census data collection and the implications an inaccurate count in 2020 would have on communities across Alaska. Foraker's board and staff agree to take the lead in convening a statewide, cross-sector collaboration of stakeholders, now known as the Alaska Census Working Group, to address critical census-related issues.

### **Purpose of the Working Group**

The Alaska Census Working Group was tasked with convening stakeholders, identifying and prioritizing census-related issues that might affect Alaska, and collaborating with partners around the state to develop and implement appropriate action plans. To date, the working group has convened diverse stakeholders, identified the numerous census-related issues that concern Alaska communities, provided education regarding those issues, and achieved broad consensus on three priority issues intended to promote accurate Census Bureau data collections in Alaska, which are outlined in the *Alaska Census Working Group Priority Initiatives*.

### **Who is engaged?**

The Alaska Census Working Group has convened participants from public, private, nonprofit, and tribal entities that represent the interests of people and organizations across the state. A current list of those participants is available in *Alaska Census Working Group Engagement*.

The working group is staffed by Foraker's Vice President of Public Policy, Dr. Mike Walsh, and is chaired by Gabe Layman, who is Vice President and General for Cook Inlet Housing Authority, as well as a member of Foraker's Operations Board and its public policy committee. Carol Gore, President/CEO of Cook Inlet Housing Authority and a member of the Census Bureau's National Advisory Committee, is also engaged in the Alaska Census Working Group. Laurie Wolf, President/CEO of Foraker, and Bruce Botelho, a former Alaska Attorney General and former Mayor of Juneau, and a member of the Foraker Governance Board and chair of the public policy committee, are also active leaders in the Working Group's efforts.