

Women for Afghan Women Announced as Complete Count Fund Awardee

Women for Afghan Women joins citywide effort to ensure a fair and complete count

(New York, NY) December 10, 2019 – [Women for Afghan Women](#) (WAW) is pleased to announce that it has received a \$75,000 award from the [New York City \(NYC\) Complete Count Fund](#) — a partnership between the City University of New York (CUNY), Mayor Bill de Blasio, and the NYC Council. The NYC Complete Count Fund is a first-of-its-kind census-related program that will support community-based organizations to help NYC obtain an accurate count in the 2020 Census. WAW is also grateful to the Queens Borough President for the \$4,300 grant from the Queens Census Funding Initiative, which will further support WAW's census-related efforts.

The funds will support WAW's outreach efforts with the Afghan, South Asian, and Muslim immigrant communities in Queens to complete the 2020 Census through partnerships with three Queens-based mosques, a local library, and other nonprofit advocacy and immigrant service agencies by hosting workshops, awareness-raising initiatives, and engagement encouraging participation in the census. WAW is also integrating and building 2020 Census awareness into all of its [New York Community Center](#) programs and services. We have already translated educational materials, including census questions, into Dari, Pashto, and Urdu to ensure wider accessibility among NYC's Muslim communities.

WAW is proud to join this coordinated, citywide effort to build awareness about the census, convey its importance, and fight the spread of mis- and disinformation. WAW will also be working tirelessly to help New Yorkers bridge the digital divide in order to participate in the census online. We will also partner with underrepresented communities, such as those with which we work every day providing life-saving and life-changing services. WAW is strongly invested in advocating for and amplifying these communities' voices on city, state, and national platforms, as well as to increasing participation of NYC Afghan, South Asian, and Muslim communities in the 2020 Census in order to help rectify the gross undercounting that has occurred in the past.

A complete and accurate count is critical to the future of NYC. The census will determine how over \$650 billion in federal funds for education, public housing, infrastructure, and more gets distributed throughout the country. It will also determine the number of seats each state is allocated to the United States House of Representatives. This figure, plus two Senators, constitutes the number of electors each state has in the Electoral College, which ultimately determines presidential races. Based on current census estimates, an undercount could cost the New York up to two congressional seats.

In such a complex city, enriched by linguistic and cultural diversity, NYC's full participation is imperative to address its unique set of challenges. As New Yorkers, we have embraced potential obstacles as an opportunity to bring our communities together and raise our voices together for the common good. These citywide efforts will lay the groundwork for a civic engagement apparatus that will continue well beyond the 2020 Census.

The Complete Count Fund will launch in early January with an all-day kick-off event and training.

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About Women for Afghan Women (WAW)

WAW is the [largest](#) Afghan women's rights and shelter-providing organization in Afghanistan and the world, with over 850 staff members operating 32 facilities in [Afghanistan](#) across 16 provinces, as well as our [New York Community Center](#) and Washington, DC-based [advocacy program](#). Since 2001, WAW has provided over 37,000 women and children in Afghanistan and the U.S. with life-changing and life-saving services, trained more than 362,000 individuals on women's rights, and provided nearly 723,000 internally-displaced persons and refugee returnees with protection and monitoring. Every year, WAW changes the lives of more than 6,000 women, children, and families.

About NYC Census 2020

NYC Census 2020 was established as a first-of-its-kind organizing initiative by Mayor de Blasio to ensure a complete and accurate count of all New Yorkers in the 2020 Census. The program is built on four pillars: (1) a community-based awards program, The New York City Complete Count Fund; (2) an in-house "Get Out the Count" field campaign; (3) an innovative, multi-lingual, tailored messaging and marketing; as well as (4) an in-depth Agency and Partnerships engagement plan that seeks to leverage the power of the City's 350,000-strong workforce and the city's major institutions, including libraries, hospitals, faith-based, cultural institutions, and higher educational institutions, and more, to communicate with New Yorkers about the critical importance of census participation.

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Women for Afghan Women (WAW) is a grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to securing and protecting the rights of disenfranchised Afghan women and girls in Afghanistan and New York, particularly their rights to develop their individual potential, to self-determination, and to be represented in all areas of life: political, social, cultural, and economic. WAW advocates for women's rights and challenges the norms that underpin gender-based violence wherever opportunities arise to influence attitudes and bring about change.