

Democracy Initiative

Recognizing the importance and strength of nonprofits providing services to citizens all over the state, Forefront is dedicated to creating a sector where leaders are given the tools, training, and space to advocate for their communities. Forefront's Democracy Initiative program seeks to enlist, educate, and train hundreds of nonprofit leaders and legislators across Illinois to encourage their constituents to participate in the 2020 Census, register and turn out to vote, and remain civically engaged. It consists of two main initiatives: **Civic engagement** and **Census 2020 outreach**.

Civic Engagement

This initiative works to empower and train nonprofits to build voter engagement into the fabric of their organizations. Instead of searching for ways to bring voter registration to individuals, a new model provides voter engagement opportunities to entire populations with typically low voter engagement at organizations people already visit and trust.

Forefront's ILVote Campaign supports and evaluates the role of nonprofit organizations conducting intentional voter engagement in Illinois. Our goal is to increase voter engagement work and outreach, improve models for nonprofits to register, and engage voters through ongoing activities. This program highlights the value of nonprofits conducting voter participation with their constituents and communities through measurable outreach efforts.

Census 2020

As part of our Census outreach work, Forefront is mobilizing our nonprofit and foundation members alike to encourage all Illinoisans, and especially members of traditionally hard-to-count populations, to participate in the upcoming 2020 Census. We are advocating for a fair, accurate and coordinated Census outreach across the State, working in partnership with elected officials and community leaders on the importance and impact of the 2020 census. The project titled "IL Count Me In 2020" has three main objectives:

1. Ensure coordination with the State's Complete Count Commission;
2. Facilitate and manage a statewide advocacy coalition of nonprofits with a steering committee of trusted community-based organizations to help lead outreach efforts;
3. Facilitate and manage an IL funders' collaborative to help raise funding for community-based organizations to do outreach work in hard-to-count communities across the State.

Forefront's goal for the *Illinois Count Me In 2020 program* is to provide educational Census outreach statewide, while serving as a resource for Grantmakers, government and nonprofit organizations to ensure statewide Census outreach coordination. The ultimate goal of our work is for 90% of Illinois to be counted (compared to 78%) in 2010.

#ILCountMeIn2020