

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (hereinafter called the Council) has long supported regional efforts to collect, analyze and disseminate demographic and economic information on the metropolitan Washington region, including the Council serving as an affiliate data center for the U.S. Bureau of the Census; and

WHEREAS, Census data provide the Council, area state and local governments, businesses, educational institutions and community-based groups with a wealth of economic and demographic information on the Washington region; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing the population information that determines the apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and state legislatures, Census information is the basis for the allocation of billions of dollars of federal, state and local funds for social and other programs; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 1999 the Council adopted Resolution R10-99, supporting regional and local Census 2000 partnerships to ensure an accurate count of the region's population; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2000 the Council endorsed a proclamation encouraging all residents to complete the Census questionnaire and fully participate in Census 2000; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of the Census developed the American Community Survey (ACS) in response to congressional concerns about the length and effect on response rates of the 1990 Census "long form" questionnaire; and

WHEREAS, the American Community Survey is planned to replace the once-a-decade "long form" questionnaire, permitting Census Bureau staff to devote more resources to the basic population count in the Census; and

WHEREAS, the "continuous measurement" design of ACS would produce yearly estimates of key demographic, economic, and social indicators to guide planning, program administration and evaluation, and investment decisions in the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, the recently-released 2001 "Supplemental Survey" data for the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia have demonstrated the potential value of information to be obtained from the American Community Survey for jurisdictions of metropolitan Washington.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. The Council supports the American Community Survey as a resource to aid in local planning and policy decisions in the Washington region.
2. The Council urges the region's Congressional delegation to work to provide sufficient federal funds to ensure completion of the American Community Survey.