Census Open Innovation Challenge May 2017

Census policy priority:

Every decade, in years ending in "0," the U.S. Census Bureau conducts its Decennial Census, apportioning representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as federal funds for critical infrastructure and services such as housing, highways, schools, hospitals, and scores of programs that are vital to the health and welfare of the U.S. population and economy.

It is critical that all those living in the U.S. participate in the 2020 Census. It is therefore vital that people know the impact that the 2020 Census has on their lives, families, communities, and societies. Yet certain groups have been undercounted at disproportionately high rates, including racial and ethnic minorities, non-native English speakers, low-income people, undocumented immigrants, mobile millennials, children, and those experiencing homelessness. We are bringing together teams of partners from across industries and sectors to ideate new technology platforms and solutions that will drive participation in hard-to-count communities.

What is the problem?

In 2020, our goal is to conduct a complete and accurate census, but there are massive challenges ahead. Historically, certain groups have been undercounted at disproportionately high rates.

These "Hard-to-Count" populations include:

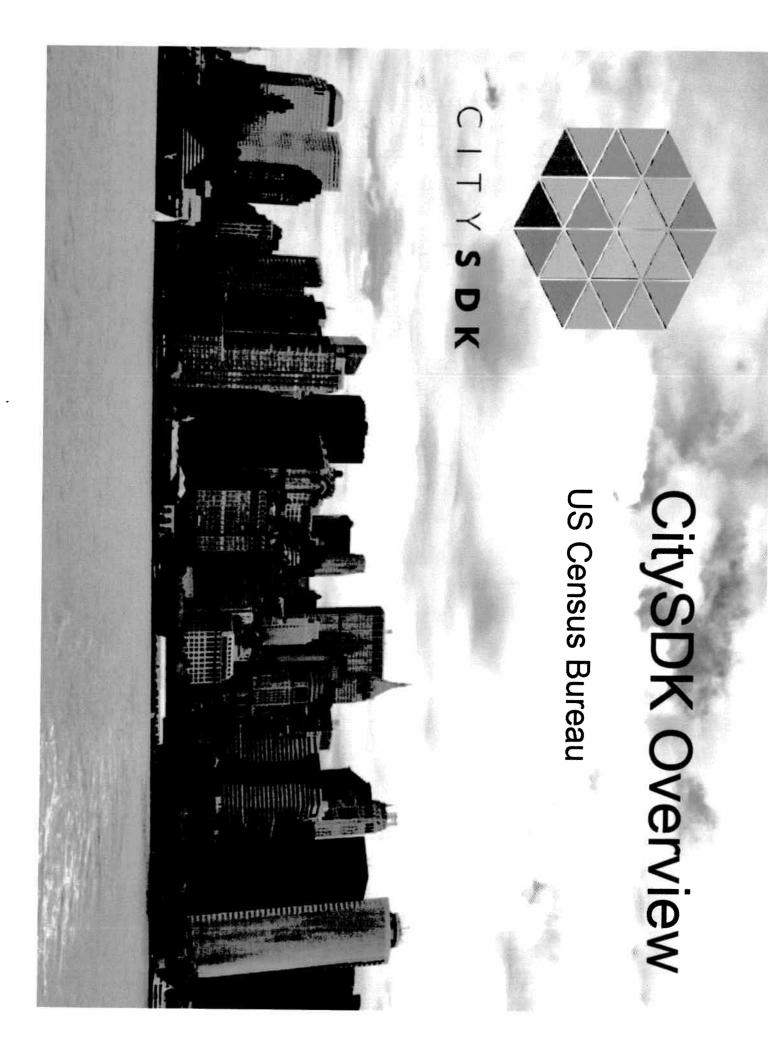
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Non-native English speakers
- Low-income people
- Young, mobile people
- People experiencing homelessness

User Scenarios:

- Doesn't speak English
- Doesn't know what Census is/does
- Doesn't want to participate or share information
- Doesn't know how to participate

Why is this problem important? When people participate in the Census, they further drive its value by ensuring a complete count. Having an accurate count then ensures the fair distribution of federal spending and apportionment of congressional seats. When segments of the population are undercounted, it results in fewer resources allocated, imprecise policy recommendations, and less congressional representation for those communities. The 2020 Census will also be the first to have an online response option, presenting new challenges with those who aren't digitally connected, but also opening up new opportunities for creative solutions to the undercount challenge.

Challenge: How might we enable the Hard to Count to see and experience the value of the Census data and increase their participation?



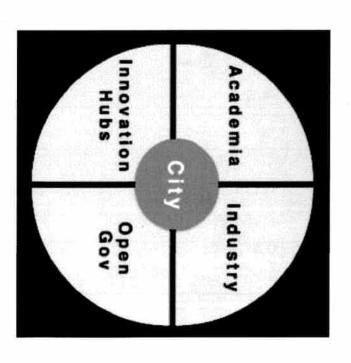


What is the CitySDK

government. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, HUD USDA, and other agencies in the federal The CitySDK is a collaboration between the

The goal is to support civic innovation, through the efforts like Code for America, and streamline the development of applications that use open data at the federal, state and local levels.





City SDK won 2016 API World Award for best innovations in harnessing data in ways that have a meaningful impact on our nation and our lives.



Open-Source Project

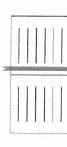
http://uscensusbureau.github.io/citysdk/

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Toolbox for civic innovators to connect local and national public data





















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Partner integrations and example projects

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US Census Bureau

Civic Spark



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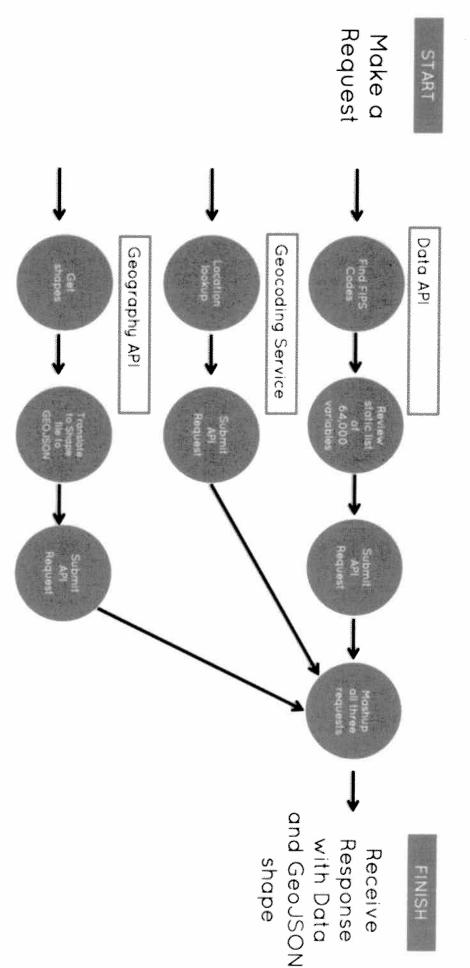
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How the SDK works

Combines multiple datasets using a single call





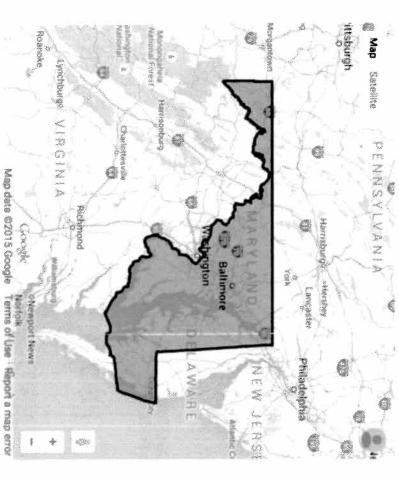
Acquiring Census Data

Example of simple request for State of Maryland geography

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var request = {
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};

var caliback = function(response) {
    map.data.addGeoJson(response);
};

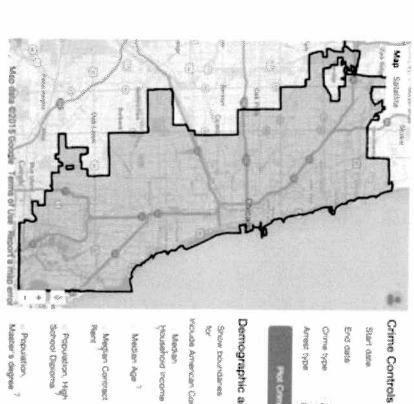
census.GEORequest(request, caliback);
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Combining Federal and Local Data

Chicago Crime data from the City of ACS data with Uses Census



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go go

Demographic and Data Controls

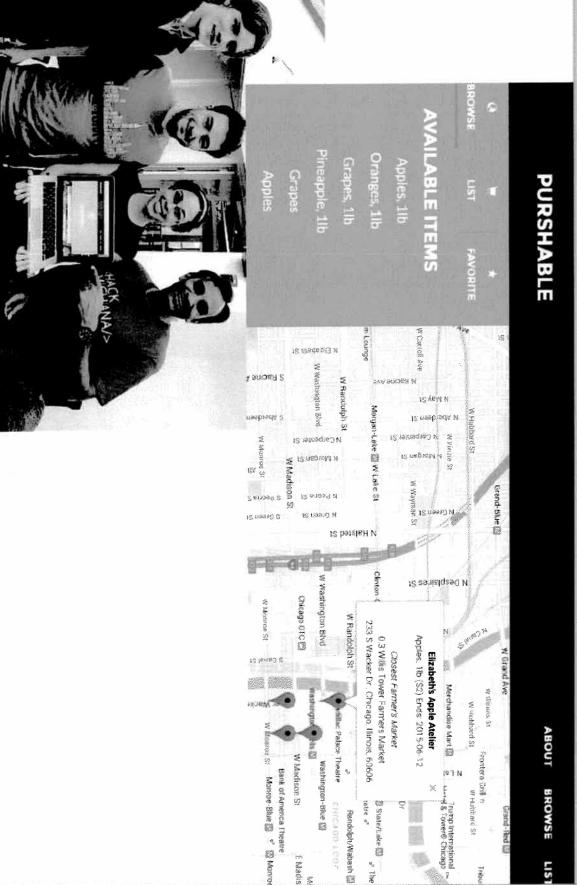
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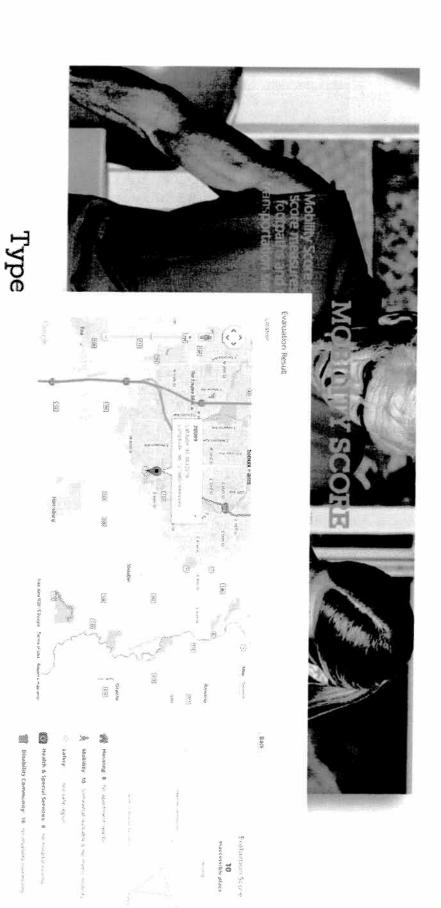


Case Study: Purshable



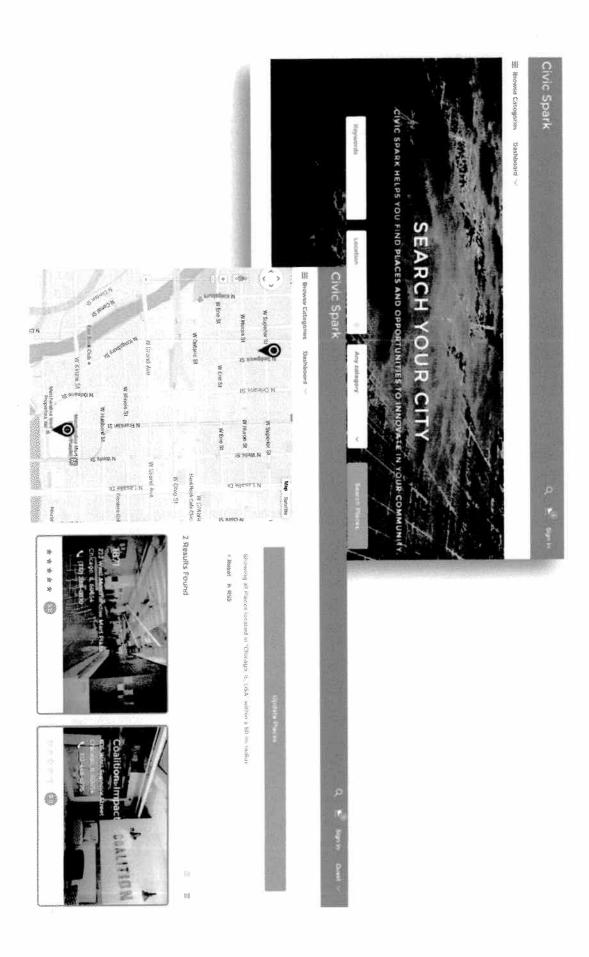


Case Study: Housing Accessibility





Case Study: "AirBNB for Tech Spaces"





Where to go for more information

Census Developer Portal:

http://www.census.gov/developers/

CitySDK Project Page:

http://uscensusbureau.github.io/citysdk/

Submit a Github issue:

https://github.com/uscensusbureau/citysdk/issues

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