



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Office of Inspector General**

Washington, D.C. 20230

March 6, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Thomas L. Mesenbourg, Jr.  
Acting Director, U.S. Census Bureau

FROM: *Judith J. Gordon*  
Judith J. Gordon  
Assistant Inspector General  
for Audit and Evaluation

SUBJECT: Reviews of 2010 Address Canvassing Operations,  
Including Activities Related to the American Recovery  
and Reinvestment Act

We are preparing to review several aspects of the 2010 address canvassing operation—automation, address listing, and partnership activities—with the intent of issuing quick, brief reports that advise you of problems we identify in a time frame that enables you to take prompt corrective action. We also plan to conduct longer-term evaluations of the address list and the payroll process, for which we will issue traditional reports after address canvassing has concluded.

The objectives of our shorter-term reviews are as follows:

- *Automation.* We will assess the effectiveness of automated data collection, transmission, and processing; system and network services and support for field activities; local help desk services; and the bureau's nationwide process for monitoring and troubleshooting technical and production problems.
- *Address listing.* We will determine whether problems and concerns identified during address canvassing test operations have been resolved and whether the 2010 listing operation is taking place as planned.
- *Partnership program.* We will evaluate the status of the bureau's efforts to partner with government entities, community groups, educational organizations, the media, and businesses to increase participation in the 2010 Census. Changes made to the partnership program as a result of stimulus funding will also be reviewed.

We also plan to monitor the fingerprinting process and other administrative operations during our fieldwork and will comment on any problems we note as necessary.

In our longer-term reviews we will (1) assess the quality and accuracy of the updated address list resulting from the canvassing operation, and (2) verify the payroll system's accuracy and integrity.

As a first step in initiating this work, we have scheduled a meeting with your key staff for March 12, 2009, during which time we will discuss our plans and objectives in more detail. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding these reviews please feel free to call me at (202)482-2754.

cc: Sally Obenski, special assistant to the director  
Adam Miller, audit liaison, Management Services Branch  
Pamela White, chief, External Liaison Branch