

# Group Quarters Advance Contact Operation for the 2018 Census Test

## *Preparing for the 2020 Census*

Before we can conduct a population count in group quarters (GQ), we must first let the GQ staff know that we are coming, explain the enumeration process, and collect certain information about each GQ. The Group Quarters Advance Contact (GQAC) operation will help us prepare for a successful population count during the Group Quarters Enumeration (GQE) and the Service-Based Enumeration (SBE).

For the 2018 Census Test, the GQAC operation will be conducted from the area census office (ACO) in Providence County, Rhode Island. It will be conducted from June 18, 2018, through July 10, 2018. Before GQAC, the Census Bureau will be mailing out a letter to each GQ informing them of the 2018 Census Test and that Census Bureau staff will be calling.

### Purpose

- During the 2018 GQAC operation, staff in the ACO will call GQ facilities to:
  - Verify the GQ's name, address information, contact name, and phone number.
  - Collect an expected Census Day population count.
  - Verify the maximum population for a GQ.
  - Ask whether the GQ has response data files that can be transmitted electronically to the Census Bureau for enumeration.
  - Inform the GQ staff about the various options of enumeration available to them.
  - Obtain a preferred enumeration option and set an appointment date and time to conduct the enumeration.
  - Address concerns related to privacy, confidentiality, and security access to the facility.