

## **2020 Local Update of Census Addresses - Executive Summary**

The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program is the only opportunity offered to tribal, state, and local governments to review and update the U.S. Census Bureau's Master Address File (Census MAF) for their jurisdiction prior to the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau relies on a complete and accurate residential address list (Census MAF) to ensure every person is counted in the decennial census.

The federal government uses census results to distribute approximately \$675 billion in federal funding annually. New York State receives \$53.2 billion of those funds each year to support education, health care, infrastructure, and other programs. Participation in LUCA and thus participation in the Census also determines the number of congressional representatives for each state and for state legislative redistricting. It is clear the decennial census helps communities plan for the future. This process has resulted in increased numbers and accuracy in delivery of the Census short form, thereby increasing participation rates and accurate counts for past decennial Censuses. It is also important to consider that we live with decennial Census numbers for ten years.

The LUCA program happens in two phases. The first phase is to review and update the Census Bureau's Master Address file. The second phase is the Feedback Period which allows each submitting entity to appeal any number of residential addresses rejected by the Census Bureau from phase one.

The first phase of LUCA happened between the Summer of 2017 and June 2018. The G/FLRPC staff prepared for the arrival of the Master Address File by educating the region on the LUCA program and creating Local Address Files from a variety of databases from each municipality in the region that were formatted to excel, culled of duplicates manually as there were address variations between databases, and then each municipality's list was joined to create 9 county wide Local Address Files. This was a significant undertaking that staff and diligent interns worked hard to compile.

The Census Bureau's Master Address Files arrived on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This started a 120 day deadline for reviewing, updating, and submitting revisions to the Census Bureau. G/FL staff and a new semester of interns took the Local Address File databases and joined them to the Master Address File databases. They color coded the Local Address File lines separately from the Master Address File lines. These were then sorted based on street number and name. If an address was in both colors, the Local Address Files were deleted indicating that the Master Address File already included it. If an address was only in the Local Address File color, the line was appropriately coded to indicate it needed to be added to the Master Address File. Each of the 9-county files were sorted and coded. The two codes for updating the Master Address File were either Additions or Corrections to existing addresses. Table 1 shows the total number of updates sent per county and the date of submittal to end Phase One.

<b>County</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>	<b>Additions</b>	<b>Corrections</b>	<b>Deletions</b>	<b>Total Updates</b>
Genesee	6/1/2018	4,622	258	6	4,886
Livingston	5/23/2018	3,207	305	0	3,512
Monroe	6/28/2018	53,550	12,294	1	65,845
Ontario	6/13/2018	13,428	1,029	0	14,457
Orleans	5/21/2018	7,824	222	0	8,046
Seneca	5/25/2018	2,784	19	0	2,803
Wayne	6/4/2018	12,697	2,267	0	14,964
Wyoming	6/5/2018	6,946	12	0	6,958

Yates	5/11/2018	2,227	440	1	2,668
<b>Total:</b>		107,285	16,846	8	124,139

**Table 1:** Each county in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region and the number of address updates submitted to the Census Bureau.

The second phase started with the receipt of the 9 counties' Feedback Material on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The rejected addresses, as determined by the Census Bureau from the Phase One update submission, were handled similarly to the first phase. The rejected addresses were color coded and joined with the Local Address File. By joining the rejected addresses with the Local Address Files, G/FL relied on the work of the 2018 staff and interns to be able to sort out the rejected addresses by municipality. After sorting through all 9 county files the rejected addresses were sent to each municipal contact to assist G/FL with acquiring sufficient evidence to appeal any rejected residential addresses.

Recommended evidence types most used for the 9-county appeal include tax assessment rolls, tax bills, school tax bills, and real property parcel information which seemed to provide a strong amount of evidence. The key information on these documents was the NYS Property Classification Code that denotes a wide range of residential locations. Pictometry was used to support these and other types of evidence used. Each county handled the gathering of evidence differently. Some were able to complete the feedback period solely at the county level, others provided heavy assistance with the municipalities, and other counties relied on each municipality to complete the evidence gathering. In some cases, G/FL was able to gather evidence for municipalities. In other cases, a few municipalities elected to not participate.

Once the evidence was returned to G/FL, the material was formatted and processed to align with the Census Bureau Feedback Period requirements and submitted to the Appeals Office. At this point, the Appeals Office reviewed all submissions and sent their final determinations by the beginning of January 2020. Table 2 details the final numbers of the Feedback Period in blue and the LUCA Program overall.

Number of addresses...	Genesee	Livingston	Monroe	Ontario	Orleans	Seneca	Wayne	Wyoming	Yates	Region
Submitted	4886	3512	65845	14457	8046	2803	14964	6958	2668	124139
Rejected	516	227	6717	1067	1146	711	727	1319	183	12613
Appealed	68	32	1008	284	871	166	232	52^	36	2749
Accepted	49	28	924	225	71	55	107	45	36	1540
Appeals denied	19	4	84	59	800*	111*	125+	7	0	1209
Total number dismissed	467	199	5793	842	1075	656	620	1274	147	11073
<b>Total Number Updated</b>	<b>4,419</b>	<b>3,313</b>	<b>60,052</b>	<b>13,615</b>	<b>6,971</b>	<b>2,147</b>	<b>14,344</b>	<b>5,684</b>	<b>2,521</b>	<b>113,066</b>
<b>Overall Percentage Accepted</b>	<b>90.5%</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>91.2%</b>	<b>94.2%</b>	<b>86.6%</b>	<b>76.6%</b>	<b>95.9%</b>	<b>81.7%</b>	<b>94.5%</b>	<b>91.1%</b>
Percentage Denied upon Appeal	27.9%	12.5%	8.3%	20.8%	91.8%*	66.8%	53.9%	13.46	0%	44%
Overall Percentage Dismissed	9.6%	5.7%	8.8%	5.8%	13.3%	23.4%	4.14%	18.3%	5.5%	8.9%

**Table 2** – Data for the 9-County region on each stage of the LUCA process. The blue indicates data specific to the Feedback Period.

\*The large number of denials is due to duplicate, older, inaccurate addresses for specific developments.

+A large number of denials is due to addresses being in the wrong county.

^The county was unable to appeal a larger number of addresses due to staff limitations and simultaneous timing of the New Construction Program.

When looking at the whole LUCA process for the region, it is important to understand the initial approach during the updates and corrections phase for the initial submission. The thought process was to submit as many additions and corrections to the Master Address File from the compiled Local Address Files. This seems obvious. Mixed use buildings, multifamily houses, and other non-standard residential housing in the 400 and 600 property class codes are difficult to tease out through databases. By initially submitting more additions and corrections, it falls to the Feedback period to catch any other residential addresses that may have slipped through the cracks.

The numbers are very interesting and require some explanation. As seen in Table 2, the region as a whole had at 91% acceptance rate from the initial submission. Two thirds of the region had an overall dismissal rate of less than 10%. The remaining three counties were under a 25% dismissal rate. This denial rate is still very good. G/FL took a wide lens approach with phase one which follows that phase two would have a number of rejected non-residential addresses. Two of the three counties had a sizable number of duplicated incorrect addresses that were cleared from the Master Address File. One county with a high denial rate and low dismissal rate appealed addresses based on the information returned from the Census Bureau that ended up being in a completely different county. This skews their numbers but achieves the goal for an accurate and successful LUCA program.

The LUCA project was a large undertaking. Whether done municipality by municipality, on the county level, or at the regional level, the amount of time and energy to accomplish the Master Address File update of 124,139 addresses with a final acceptance of 113,066 addresses for the region was massive, especially for the initial submission. Due to the large scale of the LUCA process for our region, it might serve G/FL well for the 2030 LUCA project to look into the customized GIS software that may be provided by the Census Bureau. This might streamline the process and potentially eliminate some of the errors that occur with such an undertaking and so many people involved. In summary though, the effort of all municipal contacts, the support of the counties, and the work of all G/FL staff led to a successful Local Update of Census Addresses for the 2020 Census. This effort laid the foundation for the 2020 Decennial Census coming in April 2020.