### Developing Your Hard to Count List







### Hi, I'm Tracy!

Engagement Director 270 Strategies







### Who We Are





### **270 Strategies and Do Big Things**

We are community organizers, digital strategists, communications professionals, and data scientists who have dedicated our lives to building communities, campaigns, and organizations focused on making the world a better place.

We got our start working for presidential campaigns and cause-based organizations and know that organizing starts with a deep understanding of your community. Over the last five years, we've worked with hundreds of national and international campaigns and advocacy organizations to build out their campaign and engagement programs.





# Do you have census specific questions?

### Check out these census resources:

- U.S. Census Bureau
- Census Counts Website
- Census 2020 HTC Map (CUNY)
- Funder's Committee Census
   Initiative 2020



### Our Process

Content will be driven by a comprehensive analysis of the field, paired with our organization's wealth of experience in relevant civic engagement work

# Since October 2018 our team has conducted digital assessments of National Hubs:















### **Ongoing Collaboration:**









# Training Schedule

This is the fourth of five online trainings that will walk you through GOTC from **plan** development to program evaluation

UP NEXT JUL 24 Crafting Your Census Campaign Plan

**AUG 13** Assessing Your Digital Readiness

**SEP 10** Content Strategy for HTC Communities

**SEP 26** Developing Your Hard to Count List

**OCT 8** Optimizing your GOTC Program





**TODAY** 

### Today's Agenda

### Goals

Glossary of Terms

**Reaching HTC Communities** 

Building a List

Data Management

Privacy & Security

Q&A and Wrap Up





# Goals for Today's Training

- Understand your organization's list-building needs and next steps
- 2) Learn how to manage information about your audience and take action with it
- Familiarize yourself with data privacy and security best practices
- Feel empowered to run a data-supported GOTC effort





### **Pulse Poll**

Does your organization currently use a list for outreach work?

bit.ly/HTCList1



## Glossary of Terms





### **Glossary of Terms**

**UNIVERSE** 

Everyone you want to reach through any means. *Note:* This should be similar to "audience" and be the specific group of people that you are able to reach.

**TARGET** 

Individual person or household you want to reach on whom you have data. This is a name you have on a list.

LIST

A collection of targets. Your full list is everyone you have in your database, but a list can also be segmented into smaller lists.

**TARGETING** 

This term is used in two ways. 1) Narrowing a list by characteristics or a model. 2) Narrowing your outreach, whether or not it is list-based.



### **Glossary of Terms in a HTC context**

**UNIVERSE** 

All of the people who share hard to count characteristics. Your HTC universe is a subset of people within this larger universe who you are focused on reaching.

**TARGET** 

A person or household in your HTC universe. This may be an individual or a profile of modeled individual or household who you want to reach.

LIST

A collection of targets – everyone you have in your database or lists.

Note: can also be segmented into smaller lists, often your membership not HTCs

**TARGETING** 

This term is used in two ways in an HTC context:

- 1) Narrowing a list by HTC characteristics
- 2) Narrowing outreach based on HTC characteristics



## Reaching HTC Communities



# Reaching HTC Communities

### Some characteristics of HTC households:

- Non-White household
- Household with a child under age 5
- Renters and those who move frequently
- Household income less than \$35,000 per year
- Female head of household, specifically non-married females or those who live with another adult
- Less than a high school education
- Large household comprised of four or more people
- Multi-unit or mobile home structure





Are you currently reaching

HTC communities?

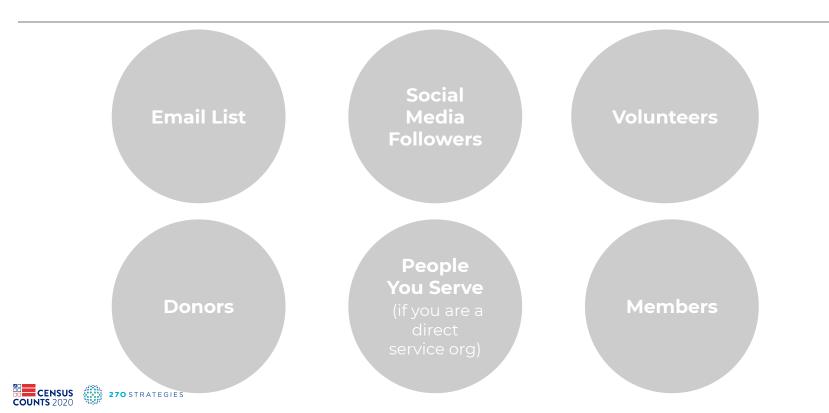
### Who Do You Want to Reach?

Who is **your** focus within the broader HTC universe?

When you wrote your census campaign plan, who was your universe?



### **HTC Universe ≠ Your current lists?**



### **Pulse Poll**

How closely aligned do you think your organization's current list is with your HTC universe?

bit.ly/HTCList2





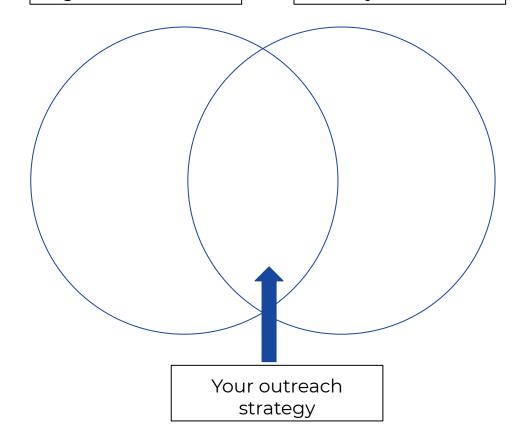
# You already know much about your universe.

This training will present options to support the engagement of your universe and further expand your reach specifically to HTC communities.

# What is the Best Way For You to Reach Your Universe

Tactics your organization can do

Tactics that will reach your universe





# Not All Outreach Tactics Require A List to Execute

- Ads radio, digital
- Reaching out to your existing visitors/clients/patients
- Distributing flyers
- Information booths
- Hot spot canvassing
- Hosting an event with tablets where people can fill out their form



### Reasons to Build a List (or Expand a List)

- You have a list, but it is not primarily HTC targets and you cannot simply narrow it/use targeting
- You do not have a list, but want to have one for future targeted outreach
- You currently work with HTC communities and want to do targeted outreach in the future
- You want to be able to track and report on your outreach work



# List Building is an ongoing cycle

Adding additional individual targets to your database Periodically engaging Collecting additional data on your targets (email address, phone number, geographic location, etc.)





# Building a List





# Potential List Building Tactics

### Online

- Acquiring voter file list to identify newly registered or "low-propensity" voters
- Using supplemental data (consumer data)
- Digital acquisition campaigns (unpaid or paid)

#### Offline

- Online/offline information collection program (e.g. pledge cards)
- Door-to-door without a list
- Door-to-door list cleaning
- Targeting your current list (relational organizing)





## Tactic Deep Dives





# Voting History Information

### **APPROACH:**

Target newly registered or low-propensity voters for GOTC outreach. "Low-propensity" describes someone who does not regularly vote. For some communities, these groups may overlap with your HTC targets.

### **PROS**

 Provides data with addresses, phone numbers, voting history and voting frequency

### **CONS**

- Newly registered or low-propensity voters may not overlap with your specific HTC targets
- Requires access to a voter file, which can require time and resources

# Accessing the Voter File

#### The Voter File

- Publicly available list
- Includes personal data -- names, mailing addresses, and voting history
- Depending on the state, additional categories like party affiliation or race may also be included

### **Voter File Management Products**

- Access may come through a network or association (State Voices, The Movement Collaborative)
- Products enable easier access to the file, enhance the list with additional data, and provide regular updates to the file
- Target Smart, Catalist are two voter file providers
- Examples of voter file platform vendors:
  - NGP VAN
  - Action Network
  - Civis
  - PDI

# Using Supplemental Data

### **APPROACH:**

Adding additional data to your existing list allows you to understand more about who your audience is and where they are, which can help you fine tune your strategy to reach them.

#### **PROS**

- Instant access to names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails
- Saves time by improving targeting
- Supports message/messenger customization

#### CONS

- Potential for questionable data quality
- Potentially expensive

# Example: State Voices





(household data source)



# A more refined and targeted list.

You can access this data by emailing <u>accesstfa@statevoices.org</u> or visiting <u>statevoices.org/programs/tools-for-all</u>

# Digital Acquisition Campaigns

#### **APPROACH:**

Acquire new targets through paid digital ads that lead people to a sign up or follow a social media account. Unpaid approaches encourage sign ups through your website, emails, or social media. Every acquisition should emphasize the collection of cell numbers and email addresses.

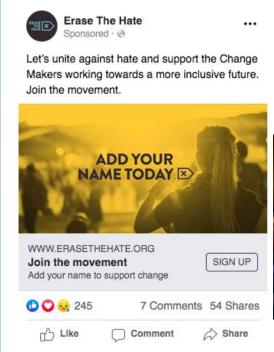
#### **PROS**

- · Ability to target people, expanding your reach
- Potential to reach brand new targets and collect additional info (like cell #'s)

#### CONS

- Resource intensive if you pursue paid ads
- Requires quality targeting and creative
- Organic online sign ups require a significant initial follow up

# Example: Digital Acquisition Ad (paid)





New Americans Campaign

# Example: Push Black (unpaid)



### NEED A DAILY DOSE OF BLACK HISTORY? WE'LL MESSAGE YOU.

Enter your 10-digit number like: 2025550317

Your	Mobile	Number		







#### Approach:

- Start with audience digital media platform for African Americans
- 2. Learn about audience through research
- Research led to a strategy to meet audience on their phones
- 4. "Subscriber first" approach opt in to communication
- 5. Engage with storytelling and then share facts

# Online/ Offline Information Collection Program

#### **APPROACH:**

Have people fill out pledge cards or petitions with their contact information. Keep fields limited to make it easy to complete and prioritize collecting email addresses and cell numbers.

### **PROS**

- Enables both online and offline engagement
- Supports future activities like texting
- Potentially reaches brand new targets

### **CONS**

- Resource intensive to facilitate the offline collection (people power!)
- Requires rapid follow up and ongoing engagement

### Pledge Cards

### Pledge card do's and don'ts:

 Design a pledge card that prioritizes key data (email and cell #'s) with the fewest fields.

- Collect a data point that matches how you will contact people in the future.
- Data from your digital pledge cards should sync to your database.
- 4. Ensure that there is prompt follow up with each new pledge

## **Example:** Offline Pledge Card





# Counted. Commit

YES! I will join my neighbors and the people in my community who have already pledged to be counted.

Signature	Yes, send me text messages to this mobile phone number.	
Name	(Message and data rates may apply)	
	Yes, I want to volunteer. Send	
Address	me more information about becoming a Count Captain.	
City, State Zip	botoning a board suptain.	
	Yes, I am interested in working	
Email	for the Census Bureau and will apply at census gov.	
Phone Number	apply at cellsus.guv.	

Paid for by Fair Count Inc.

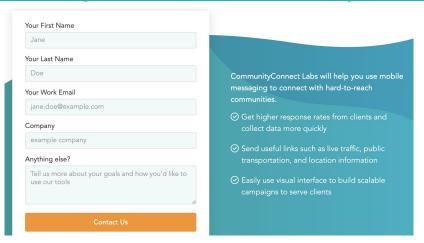


# Example: Online Pledge Cards

#### **Action Network Digital Pledge Card**

# This is the toolset our movement deserves. We're like you: a mission-driven organization dedicated to building online power for the progressive movement. We don't have clients – we have partners. Use Action Network to: Organize people online and offline Recruit and mobilize new activists Raise funds to fuel important work And much more!

#### **Community Connect Lab's Community Motivator Tool**



## Door-to-Door Without A List

#### **APPROACH:**

Choose a neighborhood that has the characteristics you're looking for and go to every door during the self-response phase.

#### **PROS**

- You don't need a list to get started
- You can potentially reach a lot of people, especially in HTC communities

#### **CONS**

- Resource intensive
- Contact rate on doors can be low
- People might be uncomfortable giving out personal information at the door to a stranger
- Competing priorities with elections may fatigue respondents

## Example: Using Maps to Target





### Census Data Mapper

Response Outreach Area Mapper (ROAM)

#### **Map Tools:**

- United States Census Bureau: Response Outreach
   Area Mapper
- United States Census Bureau: Census Data
   Mapper
- HTC 2020 -- Mapping Hard to Count (HTC)
   Communities for a Fair and Accurate 2020 Census

## Door-to-Door List Cleaning

#### **APPROACH:**

Go door to door asking people to confirm their information and ask for permission to follow up with them again.

#### **PROS**

 You can get accurate information that you might have been missing

#### **CONS**

- People may be skeptical or reluctant to share information
- May provide mismatched information in transient communities

## Examples: Kobo Toolbox, Action Builder, + MiniVAN





## actionbuilder

### List Building + List Cleaning Tools

- KoboToolbox
- ActionBuilder
- MiniVAN

## Targeting Your Current List

#### **APPROACH:**

Taking a look at your existing list, and then reach out to subsets of that list. Based on the info you have about a subset, you may want to tailor your message and messenger in a specific way.

#### **PROS**

 Relational outreach to friends and family can be very impactful

#### **CONS**

- Tailoring your message for several subsets can be labor and time intensive
- Outreach may not actually reach HTC targets

## Examples: Empower, Team, OutVote







#### **Relational Organizing Tools**

- <u>Team</u> (used by FairCount GA)
- <u>Empower</u> (formerly MyRVP; used by Wisconsin Voices)
- OutVote (used by Community Change Action org partners)

## Testing Your Tools

#### Tools Do's and Don'ts:

- Use tools that have been tested by organizations like yours
- Allow ample time for training and adoption it takes practice to use something new!
- Try first as a pilot with a small number of staff or volunteers to finetune and learn





## Learning About Tools

## Additional Resources you can use to learn about the best organizing tools:

- Democracy Labs
- Higher Ground Labs
- The Campaign Workshop
- State Voices
- The Movement Cooperative
- Community Connect Labs





## Engaging your List





## Utilizing a Call to Action (CTA)

- Most of your communication should include a Call to Action (CTA)
- An action the reader/audience can take
- This action should strengthen your organizing abilities
- Often will support list-building activities (give your email, cell, etc)





## Calls to Action – GOTC Timeline

Education

[Now - Dec '19]

Sign up here to get more information about the census [email collection] Promotion & Mobilization

[Jan '20 - Apr '20]

Pledge to be counted [digital pledge card]

Targeted Action

[May '20 - Jul '20]

Come to a Census Hot Spot





## **Call to Action Case Study: Wisconsin Voices**



Get monthly email updates from us when you take the pledge to count at wiscounts.com



By filling out the Census, you can make sure you and your community are counted. Join us and Pledge to Be Counted by filling out our digital pledge card.



Please commit to sharing and posting about the 2020 Census and encouraging your followers to take the Pledge to Be Counted on October 1.







## Data Management





## **Choosing a Database**

### **No Cost Options:**

- Microsoft Excel
- Google Sheets
- Access through a partner (State Voices, TMC)
- CiviCRM

#### **CRM Platforms:**

- NGP VAN
- EveryAction
- NationBuilder
- Salesforce
- PDI





## How to Manage your Data

### Data Management Best practices

- Identify your core metrics, goals and data and capture it right away
- For Census work; these metrics and data can include
  - Names, phone numbers, email addresses
  - Confirmation of a signed pledge card
  - Confirmation of a online/offline follow up
  - Confirmation for self-responded Census
- Do not over-classify your data points
- Train well on data





## Cleaning Your List

- You will need to make sure your data is accurate through "list cleaning":
  - Make sure households are residential
  - Ensure addresses are current
  - Add residents to household

- Make list cleaning a goal of your initial door-to-door efforts
  - Plan and train accordingly





## No matter what: track and measure your work.



## Data Privacy and Security



# Dealing With Personal Information

## Hosting your data in a CRM can be a secure option, more secure than Google Docs or Excel Sheets

- Prioritize security in choosing database
- Do not collect information you do not want to hold (example: citizenship status)
- Add two factor authentication on everything
- Don't repeat passwords and use a password manager (LastPass, Dashlane)
- Train your staff or volunteers on basic security steps
- Ensure you are using secured and updated versions of softwares







Q&A

## Thank you!

Next Step: Complete the evaluation, which will be in your inbox shortly.

Up next, on October 8th is:

## Optimizing Your GOTC Program

Registration for this training is now open: go to <u>censuscounts.org/digital-organizing-tools</u> to join!