How You Can Contribute to the 2020 Census Effort in Your Community

The results of the 2020 Census will affect political, economic, and planning decisions for the next ten years. In order to ensure that communities are fairly represented and that resources are equitably distributed, everyone must be counted in the upcoming census.

Updates on 2020 Census, August 2020

HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE 2020 CENSUS EFFORT:

Reach out to the people you know.
You are the best messenger to convey the importance of the census to your community. If you are involved in a group or organization such as a senior center, house of worship, tenant or block association, this is a perfect place to educate staff and community members about taking the census. It can be as easy as making an announcement at an event.

Emphasize the positive outcomes of census participation.
Illustrate the tangible benefits of census participation by using scenarios and examples that directly affect people’s daily lives. For example, explain how federal programs such as Medicare and SNAP are funded based on census data, or how transit planners use the data to determine where to place new bus stops. You might also explain that filling out the census form early prevents census workers from "knocking on your door."

Dispel myths and fears about the census.
Census data are only used for statistical purposes. Private information, including names, addresses, and telephone numbers, are never published. The 2020 Census will not ask about citizenship status, and census data can never be used against you.

Assure people that the census is accessible for those who speak limited English, have a disability, or feel less comfortable using technology.

Lead by example – take the census yourself!
Take the census yourself as early as possible. By taking the census, you will be better equipped to describe the process and answer questions.
When can I complete the 2020 Census?
The census can be completed anytime between March 12 and September 30, 2020.

When will census workers come knocking on my door?
Census workers will begin to follow up in person to households that have not responded to the census by the middle of August.

Which questions are on the 2020 Census?
The 2020 Census will ask for the following information about a household:
- Number of people living in the housing unit
- Any additional people staying in the housing unit
- Owner/renter status of housing unit
- Phone number (only used if the Census Bureau needs additional information)

The 2020 Census will ask for the following information for all persons living in the housing unit:
- Name
- Whether this person lives or stays somewhere else
- Relationship of each person in the housing unit to person filling out census
- Sex
- Age and date of birth
- Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin
- Race

Is there a citizenship question on the census?
No, there will not be a question about citizenship status on the 2020 Census.

What is the purpose of the census?
The data collected from the census determines how many seats each state receives in the U.S. House of Representatives and the allocation of over $675 billion annually to federal, state, and local programs in areas such as healthcare, housing, transportation and education. In addition, state officials redraw the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population changes.

Do I have to fill out the census?
Yes, you or someone who lives in your household has to fill out the census and account for everyone living in your household. It is mandatory.

How do I fill out the census?
- Online: Fill out the census by visiting 2020census.gov
- Phone: Call 844-330-2020 to complete the census.
- Print: If you received a printed census form in the mail, you can complete it and mail it back.
- In person: A census worker will follow up in person to households that have not responded to the census by the middle of August.