

The Census Counts And So Do You

What's the Census and Why Does it Matter?

Every 10 years, the Constitution requires the federal government to count everyone living in the United States — regardless of immigration status.

Census responses are used to **allocate more than \$1.5 trillion in federal funding annually** to communities across the country. This helps pay for affordable health care programs, making sure kids don't go hungry at school, critical infrastructure projects to treat drinking water and repair roads, and more. It's also used to assign **fair representation in Congress, as well as state and local legislatures** that can help ensure your concerns are heard and your needs are met.

How Can I Get Counted?

You can respond to the census on your own in 3 ways:

- Online
- By phone
- By mailing back your paper form

Select Resources Allocated by the Census

Education	Social Services	Health Care	Jobs, Transportation, & Infrastructure
Career and technical education	Adoption Assistance	Community Health Centers	Highways & Road Construction + Repair
Head Start	Child Care	Medicaid & Medicare	Drinking Water Treatment
Pell Grants	Disability Services	Reproductive Health Care	Business and Industry Loans
Public Universities	Food Stamps	Substance Abuse Programs	Housing Rehabilitation
School breakfast and lunch	Foster Care	Maternal and Child Health	Unemployment Insurance
School Funding Grants	Home Heating & Cooling Assistance	Child Health Insurance Program	Aid for Dislocated Workers
Special Education	Housing Assistance		Public Transportation
Subsidized Student Loans	Senior Services		Rural Electricity

Who's Been Missed Before and Why?

Communities that have been historically missed by the decennial census encompass a wide swath of people who have been deprived of their fair share of political representation and critical resources.

This includes people of color, immigrants, refugees, LGBTQ people, people experiencing homelessness, young children, people with disabilities, people living in rural areas, people with limited English proficiency, renters, and more.

There are several reasons these communities may not participate in the census, including:

- Distrust of the government due to historical and current discrimination
- Language and literacy barriers
- Fears that data may be used to deport or otherwise persecute them
- An increased likelihood of experiencing poverty or homelessness
- Limited or inconsistent access to mail services or the internet
- Lack of information around the process or requirements

How is Census Counts Closing the Gap?

The Census Counts campaign, which is housed at The Leadership Conference Education Fund, brings together community-based organizations across a wide spectrum of advocacy: civil rights, immigrant, LGBTQ, disability, infant and child, poverty and homelessness, faith-based, labor, health care, education, youth, and more.

Through education, training, organizing, and outreach, these organizers and advocates are working to ensure communities the census has historically missed are counted in the 2020 Census. The campaign has three main action groups:

- The National Get Out the Count (GOTC) Coalition
- The State Count Action Network
- Census Champions: a network of elected officials and library trustees working to ensure a fair and accurate count

Our organizations include people and networks who live and work in the communities most at risk of being missed in the 2020 Census. As trusted national and local messengers, Census Counts organizations are able to communicate the facts and importance of the Census, provide resources to facilitate participation, and address community members' concerns.

This includes training and educating people and community leaders about the 2020 Census, translating materials into languages the U.S Census Bureau will not, and monitoring Bureau activities to ensure they are best serving communities that have historically been missed.