Census 2020:
Five Reasons to Stand Up and Be Counted

Every 10 years, the federal government is required by the Constitution to count every single person living in the United States. Your participation can help you, your family, and community thrive. Here’s how.

1. **Ensures fair representation.**
The results determine how many seats each state gets in the federal House of Representatives. States use it to redraw congressional, state, and local district boundaries. This helps ensure your voice is heard.

2. **Determines federal funding.**
Accurate counts ensure that over $675 billion in federal funds are distributed equitably to states and local communities. This money is used for programs like Medicaid, Head Start, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Pell grants, and reduced-price school lunch programs.

3. **Helps with local planning.**
Communities, businesses, and nonprofits rely on Census data to determine the need for new roads, hospitals, schools, programs, and other services.

4. **Increases public safety and emergency response.**
With accurate Census data, cities and states can better prepare for natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and other public health concerns.

5. **Influences business decisions.**
Businesses rely on the Census data to determine where to build new stores, movie theaters, distribution centers, shopping centers, banks, and more. These decisions can often lead to new jobs!

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A Non-Profit Organization
the-ic.org
Census 2020 FAQs

What are the important dates?

March 12 – 20:
Households begin receiving detailed Census Bureau information and are invited to respond.

March 30 – April:
The Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness.

April 1:
Census takers begin visiting college campus housing, senior centers, and other group housing.

May – July:
Census takers will begin visiting homes of those who haven’t yet responded.

How can I respond to the Census?

In 2020, most residents can respond to the Census online from any device. Other ways to respond include mail, phone, and in-person interview.

Is my privacy protected?

Your information is kept confidential and may not be used against you in any way.

For more information about the Census, go to www.2020census.gov.