



## Census 2020: Your Participation Matters

Every ten years, the U.S. Constitution requires the government to perform a count of the population, known as a census. The census has been taken every decade since 1790. The 2020 Census will try to count everyone living in the United States, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, citizenship and legal status. This matters because the government uses census data to:

- Determine the number of seats each state will be allocated in the U.S. House of Representatives, and redraw federal, state and local legislative districts as needed;
- Allocate more than \$1.5 trillion in annual federal funding to states and localities for services and infrastructure such as schools, health care, roads, job training, and more;
- Perform research that helps assess community needs and deliver adequate services, such as through emergency preparation and response, grants and loans.

### Why Should You Participate?

Communities that are not counted accurately may not receive services they need. New York is one of the states at risk for serious undercounts.

Undercounting may affect some people more than others. The Census Bureau finds that communities that are hard to count may include people of color, immigrants, people living in poverty or in nontraditional housing, and households with young children or limited English proficiency. The CUNY Center for Urban Research estimates that across New York State, more than 36 percent of the population lives in hard-to-count areas. These areas have low response rates and need additional outreach to help prevent undercounts.

New York State intends to invest \$70 million on outreach efforts to ensure every New Yorker is counted. Since many hard-to-count areas are

located in New York City, the City will also be investing \$40 million for outreach.

Both the State and City efforts include partnering with local community-based organizations to encourage participation. Major partners include the [Catholic Charities of New York](#), the [Chinese-American Planning Council](#), the [Hispanic Federation](#), the [Jewish Community Relations Council of New York](#), the [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People](#), the [New York Immigration Coalition](#) and the [Rural and Migrant Ministry](#).

### Your Information is Protected

By law, your answers are kept confidential and are used only for statistical purposes. **The Census Bureau is prohibited from sharing any of your identifying information with anyone, including law enforcement, landlords, and government agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service or Homeland Security (or any of its components, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement).**

### How to Participate

In March 2020, most households will receive a letter with instructions on how to complete the census online, by phone or by mail (not all households will receive a paper questionnaire). Paper questionnaires are available in English and Spanish. You can respond online or by phone in 12 non-English languages, and assistance guides are available in 60 languages. Census takers will visit homes that do not respond to the initial letter.

Get involved and spread the word. Tell your friends, family and neighbors how important and easy it is to participate. You won't get another chance to be counted for ten years.

For more information, visit [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov), call 800-923-8282, or follow [@uscensusbureau](#).

