

Helpful Resources

- Questions Planned for the 2020 Census and American Community Survey
www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/2020/operations/planned-questions-2020-acr.pdf
- Infographics and Visualizations
www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/library/visualizations.html
- Census Videos
www.census.gov/library/video.html
- Privacy and Confidentiality
www.census.gov/history/www/reference/privacy_confidentiality
- The Count Starts Now: Taking Action to Avoid a Census 2020 Crisis
www.commoncause.org/new-york/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2018/05/the-count-starts-now-2020-census.pdf
- Census 2020 Hard to Count Map
www.censushardtcountmaps2020.us
- 2020 Census Complete Count Committee Guide
www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/press-kits/2018/ccc-guide-d-1280.pdf
- New York Regional Census Bureau Office
212-584-3400 or 800-991-2520
New.York.Regional.Office@census.gov

For additional information, please visit our website at tinyurl.com/ad106-census

Dear Neighbor,

Every ten years, the US Census Bureau **works to count every person residing in the United States**. The information collected helps inform the federal government on many important political, economic, and social decisions including the allocation of funding, legislative redistricting, and congressional representation.

In previous Census counts, **New York State has been undercounted**, resulting in the loss of tens of billions in federal funding for hospitals, public schools, transportation, emergency services, and more. Following the 2010 Census, New York lost two congressional seats.

Despite this pattern of undercounting, the federal government this time has cut the Census Bureau budget, reduced the number of field offices, focused on the use of online forms (though not everyone has internet access), and proposed the addition of a citizenship question.

Now is the time to get involved to be sure our communities are fully counted. Local outreach through libraries, schools, houses of worship, and other places of trust will be most effective. My office has developed this toolkit to help you learn more about the 2020 Census and take action in your communities. If we can be of any assistance or answer questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,



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Census 2020 Action Plan

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I help make sure my community is counted?

You can get involved locally by working with community-based institutions to form Complete Count Committees (CCC). These committees serve as “census ambassadors” and work to implement locally based outreach campaigns to raise awareness and increase participation rates.

What makes a good CCC?

CCCs should be community-based institutions that can provide a safe space as well as educational and internet resources, among other support. Ideal institutions may be local libraries, advocacy groups, farm bureaus, parent-teacher associations, local ethnic organizations, religious groups, and local businesses. While there are many different ways that a CCC can be structured, a good example for a CCC structure has a chairperson who oversees the development of subcommittees, outreach plans, events, and more.

What are the goals of a CCC?

CCCs should make sure every resident responds to the census by building trust, informing the public about the rules for submission, and increasing awareness about the negative consequences of undercounts.



Why is it important to count everyone?

New York State receives \$53 billion each year in federal funding for hospitals, public schools, transportation, emergency services, and more. Each person not counted costs the state over \$3,100 in federal aid each year.

Who is undercounted and what are the consequences?

Historically, the census has undercounted young children, people of color, rural residents, and low-income households at higher rates than other populations. New York is already expected to lose two congressional seats. An undercount would mean not only losing those seats, but also losing critical funding for schools, health care, and essential services.

Do I have to answer every question?

People who do not fill out every question on the census form will still be counted, but filling out the form as much as possible is encouraged. Returning an incomplete census questionnaire may lead to a phone call or an in-person visit to your home by a Census Bureau employee.

Is my information protected?

Title 13, U.S. Code ensures all Census Bureau employees swear a lifetime oath to protect respondent data. It is a felony to disclose any confidential information, and the penalty for wrongful disclosure is up to 5 years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$250,000. The Census Bureau never asks for your full Social Security number, money or donations, anything on behalf of a political party or your bank or credit card account numbers.

What can individuals do to help?

To learn more and sign up to become a community partner with the Census Bureau, visit: census.gov/partners.html

For employment opportunities with the Census Bureau, you can visit: census.gov/about/regions/new-york/jobs/all.html

Dates to remember

2019

- January: Complete Count Committees (CCCs) begin forming
- April: CCCs are up and running
- June-Sept.: 248 area Census Offices open

2020

- March: Public response (online, phone, or mail) begins
- Census Day—April 1, 2020
- April: In-person visits to households that haven't responded begin
- Apportionment counts sent to the President by December 31, 2020

2021

- Redistricting counts sent to the states by March 31, 2021

