

# The #2020Census counts: Be counted!



## What Is The Census?

- Every 10 years, the US government counts everyone in the country. We will have a census in 2020.
- The census asks one person in every household to answer a few questions. You can answer the questions online, by phone, or by mail.
- **In March**, the Government will send each household a letter in the mail.
- **In May – July**, Census takers will begin visiting homes that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census.
- People who live in a group facility such as a nursing home, group home or shelter are counted through the “Group Quarters” process.

**Beginning in April**, Census staff will work with facility staff to set up a date and time. Residents will not receive a mailing.

## Why Is The Census Important For People With Disabilities?

### **Money for Services and Programs.**

- Census results are used by federal, state and local government to make funding decisions for services and programs important to people with disabilities. This includes education, housing, health care, transportation, mental health, and other services.
- Completing the census helps your community receive the funding they need.

### **Representatives in Congress**

- The government will use 2020 Census results to determine how many Congressional Representatives each state should have.
- If people don't fill out the Census, a state might get fewer Representatives.

- The Census influences where the boundaries of legislative, school, and voting districts are drawn.

## The 2020 Census Should Be Accessible for Everyone

- If you have blindness or low vision, you can print a guide to the questionnaire in braille or large print from [2020CENSUS.GOV](https://www.2020census.gov).
- If you have deafness or hearing loss, you can:
  - Respond to the census by using telephone devices for hard of hearing.
  - Access video guides in American Sign Language on [2020CENSUS.GOV](https://www.2020census.gov).
  - View online videos and webcasts with closed or open captioning.
  - Request a visit from a census taker who uses American Sign Language

## How to Avoid Fraud

It's important to respond to the Census – but sometimes you may receive a fake call, mailing, email or visit. **If you have concerns**, contact the Census Bureau Regional Office at 1-800-865-6384.

These tips can help you tell if the information is the real thing.

- The US Census Bureau will never ask for your full social security number, bank account number, passwords, or for money.
- The US Census Bureau will **mail** you an invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census between March 12 – 20. A reminder letter and postcard will be sent to those who do not respond. They will not send you unsolicited emails.
- If a census taker comes to your door, ask to check their identity:
  - Census takers must present an ID badge that includes their photograph, a Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date.
  - Census workers will be carrying a Census Bureau laptop or cellphone, as well as a bag with a Census Bureau logo.

- Your answers to the Census are private. The Government will not share your answers with anyone.

## How to Get Involved

- Many communities have a Complete Count Committee (CCC) to promote the census. Serve on your local CCC and help outreach to people with disabilities.
- Take the *Pledge to Be Counted* and share it with your friends: [thearc.org/census/pledge/](http://thearc.org/census/pledge/)
- Apply for a job. The US Census Bureau is hiring thousands of temporary positions to assist with the census: [2020census.gov/en/jobs.html](http://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html).

## For More Information

- US Census Bureau – Census 2020: [2020census.gov/](http://2020census.gov/)
- State of Wisconsin WiCount Census 2020: [wicount.wi.gov/](http://wicount.wi.gov/)
- Census 2020 Fact Sheets and Videos from The Arc: [thearc.org/census/](http://thearc.org/census/)
- *How the 2020 census will invite everyone to respond:* [www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/factsheets/2019/dec/how-census-invites-everyone.pdf](http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/factsheets/2019/dec/how-census-invites-everyone.pdf)
- *An Accessible 2020 Census: FAQs by the Disability Community About Census Operations* [www.ndrn.org/resource/an-accessible-2020-census-faqs-by-the-disability-community-about-census-operations/](http://www.ndrn.org/resource/an-accessible-2020-census-faqs-by-the-disability-community-about-census-operations/)
- *Why the Census Matters for People with Disabilities: A Guide to the 2020 Census Operations & Challenges.* [www.ndrn.org/resource/why-the-census-matters-for-people-with-disabilities-a-guide-to-the-2020-census-operations-challenges/](http://www.ndrn.org/resource/why-the-census-matters-for-people-with-disabilities-a-guide-to-the-2020-census-operations-challenges/)

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[www.disabilityvote.org](http://www.disabilityvote.org)

*The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition is a project of the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities & Disability Rights Wisconsin*