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Do I need to include ALL my children on my Census form? **YES. Young children are especially important.**

Even babies who are still in the hospital on Census Day, April 1, should be included—along with everyone living in your household.

Children under the age of 5 are among the hardest to count. On the last Census in 2010, an estimated 5 percent of these children were not counted. That equals about one million of them—the highest number of any age group.

The net undercount rate for young Latino children that year was 7.1 percent, compared to 4.3 percent for non-Latinos. Approximately one in four Illinois children under the age of 5 are Latino.

The undercount of Latino children reduces potential federal funding for state programs serving low-income families.

Four federal assistance programs distribute \$20 billion annually to states based in part on Census counts of the population under the age of 5. They include Head Start, the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children; the Child Care and Development Block Grant; and the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant.

Research has shown that Latino adults are more likely than non-Latino adults to believe that young children do not need to be reported on the Census form. Latinos are also more likely than non-Latinos to live in hard-to-count places, such as multi-unit buildings and places with a high proportion of renters.

Twenty-one percent of young Latino children are living in poverty. Your responses help ensure that they get the resources they need.

Did you know?

- Over 90 percent of the approximately 400,000 uncounted young Latino children from the 2010 Census were from large counties like Cook County.
- Responding to the Census helps communities get the funding they need and helps businesses make data-driven decisions that grow the economy. Census data impact our daily lives, informing important decisions about services and infrastructure in your community, including health care, senior centers, jobs, political representation, roads, schools, and businesses.
- Illinois will lose an estimated \$1,400 per year for every person that does not fill out the Census.
- You can text 987-987 in English or Spanish to reach an Illinois help desk for more information about the Census and how to respond, Census jobs, and to pledge your commitment.

BE COUNTED.

Include all your children on your Census form.

Recommendations

- Fill out the Census form completely as soon as you receive it.
- Tell your colleagues at work, your family members, and your friends how important it is to the community's well-being to fill out the Census. Let them know that each one who doesn't participate is responsible for a loss of services for the rest of us.
- Build external partnerships with community anchors (such as schools, churches, and community centers) and ask those in charge there to have informational events about the importance of participating.
- Make a list of events from now to Census Day, April 1, that can be used to educate target populations. Share this material at these events.
- Host your own Census outreach party, such as a Bingo/Lotería night.
- Post this information to your Facebook page and/or the Facebook pages of your community groups.
- Check your local libraries to see if they have people on staff who are trained to help fill out the online form.
- Ask your children's teachers if they could plan a poster contest or school activity about the importance of the Census.
- Make copies of this material and ask your neighborhood stores to post one in a prominent place.
- Create warm, inviting, and safe environments for which to discuss the importance of the Census.

Strength In Numbers

This is #4 in a series of seven informational fact sheets encouraging Latino participation in the 2020 Census. Its purpose is to ensure that all people residing in Illinois are counted so that quality programs and services continue to be available to them.

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For further information, visit
www.latinopolicyforum.org
www.ilcountmein2020.org
www.census.gov

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