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How do I complete my Census?

Online, by mail, by phone, or with the help of a Census taker.

It has never been easier to complete the U.S. Census form, and it only takes about 10 minutes.

For the first time, the Census will be primarily conducted via internet in 2020. Computers, smartphones, and tablets can all be used to complete the Census online.

The traditional options remain available as well: The Census can still be filled out by hand and submitted via mail, and it can also be completed verbally over the phone. All these options are secure and equally acceptable.

Census takers, who are sworn to protect the confidentiality of all information gathered, will knock on the doors of households for which answers have not yet been recorded and guide residents through completing the form in person. This is the fourth option, also known as the “door knock.”

To avoid the door knock, fill out your Census completely and promptly.

Ninety-five percent of households will receive their Census invitation in the mail—the rest will be reached by a Census taker. These invitations started going out on March 12. The invitation provides a URL, a unique Census ID code, and instructions on how to go online to complete the Census.

Invitations will also include instructions for receiving help and responding over the phone.

Paper questionnaires are scheduled to be mailed between April 8 and 16. For households that have still not responded by that point, a Census taker will visit in person.

Did you know?

- Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus, the U.S. Census Bureau is delaying the deadline for the Census count by two weeks, to mid-August of 2020. Most Census takers are now scheduled to begin visiting homes in May.
- 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.

Avoid the door knock and complete your Census online, by mail, or by phone.

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 #6 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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