



Am I required by law to complete the Census?

YES

Filling out the Census is the legal obligation of everyone living in the United States.

The U.S. Constitution mandates this. In fact, it appears as early as its sixth sentence.

That sentence says that an “enumeration” must occur every 10 years and that every person living in the country must be counted once, only once, and in the right place. It states that districts and representatives will be apportioned according to this count.

Completing the Census is also your civic duty. This is because of what’s at stake: The number of seats in the House of Representatives for each state, the geographical boundaries of legislative districts, and about \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and local support. It is meant to protect and benefit all people living in the U.S., regardless of their citizenship status.

The law also mandates that Census responses must be safe for respondents. It’s against the law for the Census Bureau to reveal anything that can identify you or your household in any way. Legally, your responses can only be used to produce statistics. They can’t be used against you.

These statistics are used by local governments, businesses, real-estate developers, residents, and more for essential decisions ranging from school planning to public safety and emergency preparedness.

Did you know?

- The first Census occurred three years after the Constitution was written, in 1790, and has been conducted every 10 years ever since.
- 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.

Fulfill your legal and civic duty by completing the Census for everyone in your home.

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 #5 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 remain available to them.

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Designed by Juan Mora
Edited by Steven Arroyo
and Barbara Buell

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

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