



2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

What Elected Officials Need to Know about the 2010 Census

In 2010, the U.S. census will define who we are as a nation. Taken every 10 years, the census affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. As an elected official, you work daily to secure the best interests of your constituents and to ignite positive change for your community. By becoming a 2010 Census partner, you can help ensure that everyone in your community is counted so that your community receives its fair share of important services and resources. **Achieving a complete and accurate 2010 Census is in our hands.**

The Census: A Snapshot

- ▲ The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years.
- ▲ The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States: in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.
- ▲ The 2010 Census will create hundreds of thousands of temporary jobs across the nation.

It's in Our Hands: Your Community's Participation in the Census Matters

- ▲ Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on census data. That's more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period.
- ▲ Census data guide planning for new hospitals, schools and other services.
- ▲ Census data is used to determine the most need for additional social services, including who receives community development block grants and other grant programs essential to many communities.

Completing the 2010 Census Questionnaire: Simple and Safe

- ▲ The 2010 Census questionnaire asks only a few simple questions of each person—name, relationship, gender, age and date of birth, race, and whether the respondent owns or rents his or her home. This simple, short questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete and return by mail.
- ▲ The Census Bureau does not release or share information that identifies individual respondents or their household for 72 years.

www.census.gov/2010census