

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## WHAT IS THE DECENNIAL CENSUS?

Every 10 years, the federal government conducts a population count of everyone in the United States. Data from the census provide the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to communities across the country to support vital programs—impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care, and public policy. They also are used to redraw the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts and accurately determine the number of congressional seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ME?

Responding to the census is not only your civic duty; it also affects the amount of funding your community receives, how your community plans for the future, and your representation in government. Specifically, data from the 2020 Census are used to:

- Ensure public services and funding for schools, hospitals, and re departments.
- Plan new homes and businesses and improve neighborhoods.
- Determine how many seats your state is allocated in the House of Representatives.

## WHEN WILL I COMPLETE THE CENSUS?

The next census will take place in 2020. Beginning in mid-March, people will receive a notice in the mail to complete the 2020 Census. Once you receive it, you can respond online. In May, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that haven't responded to the census.

## HOW CAN I RESPOND?

In 2020, for the rst time ever, the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online, but you can still respond by phone or mail if you prefer. Responding should take less time than it takes to nish your morning coffee.

## WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE REQUESTED?

The decennial census will collect basic information about the people living in your household. When completing the census, you should count everyone who is living in your household on April 1, 2020.

## WHAT INFORMATION WILL NOT BE REQUESTED?

The Census Bureau will never ask for:

- Social Security numbers.
- Bank or credit card account numbers.
- Money or donations.
- Anything on behalf of a political party.

## WILL MY INFORMATION BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

Strict federal law protects your census responses. It is against the law for any Census Bureau employee to disclose or publish any 1 (y C)10 (ensBsswE6o>>BDC sr dona)5.1 (tions.)