Communities across Oklahoma stand to gain millions of dollars in federal money for vital services, such as hospitals, schools, roads and emergency services.

Each uncounted person means an estimated $1,675 in lost federal funding per person per year for 10 years. That funding goes directly into our community, so it’s important that we count everyone!

Get the facts: OKLetsCount.org
The 2020 Census relies on an accurate count of the population to better serve communities like ours. Census partners are instrumental when it comes to reaching small segments of the population that may be skeptical, uninformed or unfamiliar with the Census and how it can benefit their lives and their communities. Because you know your community best, you are uniquely positioned to inform, educate and empower those around you to participate and make their voices count.

Let’s spread the 2020 Census message!
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How can I help ensure an accurate Census count in my community?
A complete and accurate count of the population is crucial to supporting the next decade of government and business decision-making.

To help ensure a complete count, you can:
- Follow the Census Bureau on social media (Twitter, Facebook) to learn about and share important updates.
- Visit OKLetsCount.org to get information and downloadable support for sharing the 2020 Census information. Explain the importance of the 2020 Census to family, friends, neighbors and community interests.
- Form or participate in a Complete Count Committee (CCC). A CCC is typically made up of government and community leaders who can organize a 2020 Census awareness campaign, based on their local area knowledge.
- Become a Census worker. Handing out materials, conducting informational meetings or being a door-to-door Census taker for the 2020 Census.

When and where can I see the results of the Census?
The Census Bureau will publish the first results by Dec. 31, 2020.

Redistricting files, which contain data by block on the total population by race and Hispanic origin and the population ages 18 years and older by race and Hispanic origin, must be provided to the states no later than March 31, 2021. Additional tables, reports and data products will be released on an ongoing basis, with all files scheduled to be released by September 2023.
Conducted since 1790, the Census is a headcount of every living person in the United States. The demographic information gathered from the Census questionnaire helps ensure you and your community are fairly represented. It’s how Congressional seats are determined, how voting districts are created and how billions of dollars of funding are distributed to support vital community programs and services.

More than $675 billion will be allocated to United States tribal and state cities and towns for things such as roads, hospitals, schools and emergency services.

How do I count [college student/military/newborn]?

- College students who live in college/university student housing are counted at the student housing rather than at their parents’ or guardians’ homes.
- U.S. military personnel assigned to military vessels with a U.S. home port on Census Day are counted at the onshore residence where they live and sleep most of the time. If they have no onshore residence, they’re counted at their vessel’s home port.
- Newborn babies who are not yet discharged from the hospital are counted at the residence where they will live and sleep most of the time.

How does the Census account for the homeless?

People who are living at a shelter (such as domestic violence and homeless shelters) are counted at the shelter.

People who have transitory living arrangements are counted at the residence where they live and sleep most of the time. If they have no usual residence, they’re counted at their location on Census Day.

I have more than one home; where do I count myself?

People with seasonal homes or who have transitory living arrangements (such as RV parks, carnivals) are counted at the residence where they live and sleep most of the time.

People in temporary group living quarters established for victims of natural disasters are counted at the residence where they live and sleep most of the time. If they don’t have a usual home elsewhere, they’re counted at the facility.

Can my Census response affect my eligibility for government benefits?

The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information we collect and keep it strictly confidential. Your answers cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine your personal eligibility for government benefits.

About the Census

Community Services
The Census determines funding for vital programs and services in your community such as roads, hospitals, schools and emergency services.

Fair Representation
The number of representatives your state and local government gets is determined by the Census.

Civic Duty
The Founding Fathers included the Census in the Constitution, and it has been a cornerstone of our democracy since 1790.

Redistricting
Voting districts will be updated based on the results of the 2020 Census.

City Planning
Public transportation, hospitals, school districts, housing assistance, rehabilitation loans and many more government services use Census data for planning and growth.

Nonprofits
Many nonprofits rely on grants to operate. These grants rely on the Census to determine levels of funding.

Job Creation
Businesses rely on Census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores.

Representation
The Census determines how many legislators should represent your community at the federal level.

$675 Billion
More than $675 billion will be allocated to United States tribal and state cities and towns for things such as roads, hospitals, schools, emergency services and health care clinics.
Census FAQs

When is the Census?
Mid March 2020 – You’ll receive a paper questionnaire in the mail.
April 1st is Census Day – The deadline to fill out the Census is April 30th.
Early May – Community volunteers and Census employees will begin going door-to-door to help households complete the Census.

Who needs to fill out the Census?
The person in the housing unit who fills out the Census questionnaire or talks to the Census taker is the head of the household, known as Person 1. Typically, Person 1 is the owner/co-owner or renter/co-renter of the housing unit. Person 1 answers general questions about the housing unit, including the number of persons living there and whether the dwelling is rented or owned.

How do I complete the Census?
Only one Census form is necessary for the entire household. You can respond online by using the unique Census ID that will be mailed to you.
If you don’t have internet access, you can respond by phone or by mail.
• Online The 2020 Census is the first to have the option of completing online and is available in English and Spanish.
• Phone Completing the Census by phone is the ideal method for those who need more assistance because of disabilities or language barriers.
• Mail Paper questionnaires will be mailed to your home mid-March 2020.
If you do not respond online, by mail or by phone, a Census Bureau field representative might visit you in person to help you complete the Census.

What will the Census ask?
The Census asks for less personal information than most social media profiles. Items such as name, gender, age, birthday, race/ethnicity, relationship to head-of-household, owner or renter, and phone number are asked. The Census will not ask about citizenship or immigration status.

Are my answers secure and confidential?
The Census Bureau is committed to keeping your information confidential, private and secure. By law, individual-level Census information cannot and will not be shared with any agency. Furthermore, cybersecurity measures have been put in place to keep your information safe, and any unlawful release of information is punishable by a $250,000 fine and/or five years in prison.

Who gets counted?
Census forms are filled out by household. Everyone living at the address matters, and everyone needs to be counted, including children.

How is Census information used?
Being counted helps communities create jobs, provide housing, fund K-12 education, prepare for emergencies and build schools, roads, hospitals and libraries.

What will the Census NOT ask for?
• Immigration status
• Social security number
• Bank or credit card Information
• Money or donations
• Anything on behalf of a political party

Can I refuse to answer a question?
While participation in the Census – and answering all questions – is mandatory, people occasionally leave a question blank. The Census Bureau uses a statistical procedure to fill in any missing responses.

Will the Census be available in languages other than English?
While paper forms will only be available in English and Spanish, you can respond online or by phone in Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Tagalog and Vietnamese. The Bureau is also providing video and printed guides in 59 non-English languages, as well as a video in American Sign Language.

Are foreign citizens counted in the Census?
The U.S. Constitution mandates that all people – both citizens and noncitizens – living in the United States be counted. Foreign citizens are considered to be living in the United States if, at the time of the Census, they’re living and sleeping most of the time at a U.S. residence. However, citizens of foreign countries visiting the United States (such as on a vacation or business trip) are not counted in the Census.