2020 CENSUS FAITH TOOLKIT

Mobilizing Your Community to Be Counted

FAITH
IN PUBLIC LIFE

census2020@faithinpubliclife.org
www.faithinpubliclife.org/census

METHODIST AFRICAN EPISCOPAL

CATHOLIC LEGAL IMMIGRATION NETWORK, INC.

SKINNER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

NCADDHM
National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors for Hispanic Ministry

SHEPHERDING THE NEXT GENERATION
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

POLIGON
AMPLIFYING MUSLIM AMERICAN VOICES IN CONGRESS

NETWORK
NETWORK ADVOCATES FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.
FELLOWSHIP PROGRESS SERVICE PEACE
1961

SAMUEL DEWITT PROCTOR CONFERENCE

Muslim Public Affairs Council

Introduction

April 1, 2020, "Census Day" is just around the corner. Every ten years, the federal government is required to count every single person living in the United States through a census in order to determine how billions of dollars in federal funds, as well as political representation, will be distributed among states and local communities for the next decade. Though the census count has improved over time, certain populations continue to be "undercounted."

As people of faith, we believe in the divinely given dignity of every person. When we answer the Census and encourage our neighbors to do so too, we declare that we are part of "we the people" and refuse to be excluded from the critical funding and political representation all people deserve.

Faith leaders are among the most trusted messengers in our communities and are positioned to play a key role in ensuring that everyone is counted in the 2020 Census. This toolkit is designed to equip faith leaders like you with resources, messaging, and action steps to help you make sure that every adult and child in your community is counted, regardless of race, faith tradition, immigration or economic status.

The easiest way to begin educating and mobilizing your community is to become a Faith Census Ambassador. Ambassadors share information with their congregations and help spread the message that the Census is important and coming soon. When you sign up to be an ambassador, you'll work directly with Faith in Public Life to ensure your community has the resources it needs to be counted.

Faith in Public Life has convened the 2020 Census Faith Council, a coalition of national religious denominations and faith-based organizations, to lead public education efforts regarding the 2020 Census, advocate for a fair and accurate count, and recruit 500 Faith Census Ambassadors across the country. Our efforts primarily focus on engaging historically undercounted populations, also known as Hard to Count (HTC) communities.

We are looking forward to your partnership on the 2020 Census and hope you'll join us as a Faith Census Ambassador. Please be in touch with ideas, questions, and concerns at **census2020@faithinpubliclife.org**. We want to hear more about how we can help your community be counted.

2020 Census Faith Council,

Convened by Faith in Public Life and Shepherding the Next Generation

African American Ministers Leadership Council
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Catholic Legal Immigration Network
Christian Churches Together
Church of God in Christ
Conference of National Black Churches
Faith in Public Life
Jewish Community Relations Council of New York
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)
National Association of Catholic Diocesan Directors of Hispanic Ministry
National Baptist Convention USA
National Council of Churches
National Latino Evangelical Coalition
NETWORK Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Poligon Educational Fund
Progressive National Baptist Convention
Religious Action Center of Reformed Judaism
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference
Shepherding the Next Generation
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Skinner Leadership Institute
Sojourners

What's at stake for our communities:

- **Federal Funding:** Over $800 billion in federal government funding will be determined by the 2020 Census count. The 2020 Census will impact how many teachers are hired in our local schools and how many nurses and beds are in our local hospitals. From roads to food assistance, when people are not counted, our communities lose out.

- **Political Power:** The 2020 Census will determine how many representatives your state will send to Congress and how your congressional district will be drawn. This is why we must ensure a fair and accurate count as citizens and people of faith. State and local governments also use Census data to redraw state legislative districts.

Get Out the Count in Your Congregation!

There are many ways you can spread information about the 2020 Census within your congregation and beyond. The easiest way to get started is to sign up to be a Faith Census Ambassador. Ambassadors educate their communities about the importance of participating in the census, distribute educational materials, and have direct contact with Faith in Public Life as a support. Below are some examples of how ambassadors spread the word:

1. **Distribute flyers and bulletin inserts.**
   to raise awareness about the 2020 Census (See end of this Toolkit).

2. **Participate in National Faithful Census Weekend.**
   Integrate the Census into worship through preaching about the dignity of all people, the importance of being counted and what's at stake for your community. Learn more and sign up at *www.FaithinPublicLife.org/censussabbath* (See Sermon Guide)

3. **Give a short presentation on how the Census works.**
   Review the Census FAQs and important dates to learn more specifics about the 2020 Census to educate your community. Use FPL's presentation as a guide: *bit.ly/censuspresentation*

4. **Join or form a Complete Count Committee in your local community to** strategically meet the unique needs in your area and state. Learn more at *www.census.gov/partners/complete-count.html*

5. **Encourage people to respond to the 2020 Census.**
   By mid-March, 2020, set up opportunities for people to take the census together with support from the community. You can provide laptops, tablets, or smart phones and organize volunteers to answer questions and direct people to reliable sources of information such as the Census Bureau's and NALEO's toll-free phone lines: **Telephone Questionnaire Assistance Line: 1-800-354-7271; Data Protection and Privacy Program: 1-800-923-8282; NALEO's Bilingual Hotline: 877-352-3676**

Sign Up to Be a Faith Census Ambassador:
English: www.FaithinPublicLife.org/census
Español: www.FaithinPublicLife.org/censo

Who is Hard to Count?

Certain groups have been consistently undercounted in past Censuses and therefore are classified as Hard to Count (HTC). We must work to ensure that the following communities are aware that the 2020 Census is coming and that no one is left uncounted. Most of these communities are "hard to count" due to a long history of systemic racism and exclusion. When these communities are undercounted, the results are the inaccurate drawing of political boundaries and denial of a fair voice in important local, state and national policy decisions. It also means the unequal allocation of critical resources and funding for programs meant to address gaps in education, healthcare, food security, poverty rates and housing. The 2020 Census is our opportunity to break this unjust cycle.

Children under age 5

Many people filling out the Census do not realize they are supposed to **count everyone in their home, including young children and babies.** In the 2010 Census, over 2 million young children were not counted. The failure to accurately count young children means fewer resources for their education, housing and health care for the next decade. This is true for both government funding and private foundations, which all use Census data to determine where they give their money.

People living in poverty

Over 29 million people living in or near poverty reside in hard-to-count Census tracts. Low-income households have a number of characteristics making them more vulnerable to being undercounted. For example, many low-income households are renters, which means they are more likely to be in transition during the Census count and be missed. The Census Bureau also uses administrative data taken from IRS tax returns, disadvantaging low-income households who may not file income taxes or have W2s. Finally, as the 2020 Census is the first Census to be conducted almost entirely online, low-income households without internet access will be even more likely to be missed.

People Experiencing Homelessness

The Census counts people experiencing homelessness through Service-Based Enumeration (SBE) and Enumeration at Transitory Locations. SBE is a process in which Census workers count people at places where they receive services, such as shelters, soup kitchens and mobile food vans. SBE will run for three days from March 30 through April 1, 2020. Enumeration at Transitory Locations counts people in transitory locations such as hotels, motels and campgrounds. Additionally, the Census Bureau includes a "probe question" on the census form to identify people who are living with family or friends but may have been left off the form or were included but should not have been. Some of these people may be experiencing homelessness.

African Americans

More than 3.7 million African Americans were not counted in the 2010 Census. Many of those missed were children and young adult men. African-American households typically share characteristics that make them vulnerable to undercounting. One in four African Americans live in poverty, far higher than the

national poverty rate. When African-American communities are undercounted, they get less political representation in Congress and in state legislatures. Combine this underrepresentation with the effect of voter suppression, and it's a recipe for oppression. Public and private resources become harder to access or do not meet the needs of the community.

Latinos

The Latino undercount is the result of numerous barriers including language, poverty, education and immigration status. When accounting for the current political climate, Latino households are especially vulnerable to being undercounted in the 2020 Census. Like the African-American undercount, the Latino undercount results in the inaccurate drawing of political boundaries and denial of a fair voice in important local, state and national policy decisions. It also means the unequal allocation of critical resources and funding for programs meant to address gaps in education, healthcare, food security, poverty rates and housing in Latino communities.

Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI)

One in five Asian Americans live in hard-to-count areas, along with one-third of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. The Asian-American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities are very diverse; as a result, overall statistics may not reveal challenges faced by certain subgroups. Some Asian Americans are especially at risk of not being counted due to challenges such as housing insecurity, poverty and unemployment, education levels and language barriers.

American Indians and Alaska Natives

As of 2016, there were 5.6 million Native people living in the United States, 26% of whom live in hard-to-count areas. Native people across regions can share common struggles that compound the risk of not being counted, including poverty, education level, housing insecurity and age. Many programs, as well as redistricting, are funded based on census-derived data, including essential programs to meet education, healthcare and housing needs for Native people.

Immigrant communities

Due to the policies and rhetoric of the Trump Administration, many immigrant communities are on high alert for government agencies, fearing for their safety and livelihoods in the United States. These communities tend to be hard to count under the best circumstances, but with strong fears of their data being shared with Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) and resulting in deportation, they are at higher risk than ever of not responding to the census.

Religious minorities

Many religious groups live as intentional communities and may not receive standard Census marketing or outreach. Orthodox Jewish communities, for example, often require culturally relevant and sensitive outreach in the form of Census workers who are Orthodox Jews. These communities also overlap with other hard to count communities, such as immigrants, people of color, or communities with Limited English Proficiency.

Talking Points on the **2020** Census

The 2020 Census is an issue that impacts us all. Faith leaders have a unique position and voice to help people understand the importance of responding to the census, both for their families and community. We invite you to use these talking points as a guide while you address your congregation or community in a presentation, speech, or sermon in order to create dialogue and bring awareness to each person's vital role in responding to the 2020 Census.

As people of faith, we believe in the divinely given dignity of every person.

When we answer the Census and help our neighbors do so too, we declare that we are part of "we the people" and we refuse to be excluded from the critical resources and political representation that we deserve. Because everyone counts in the eyes of God, we must work to ensure that everyone is counted by our government.

Our community benefits from everyone being counted, and we have one chance in a decade to get it right.

The 2020 Census' impact on our communities and our nation is profound. It shapes everything from whether we have fair political representation in Congress to whether our roads, hospitals, schools and fire departments have the funding they need to support our health and well-being for the next decade. A full, accurate count lays the foundation for a healthy democracy and communities where families thrive and flourish.

Your census information is confidential, and we have a legal and moral responsibility to take part.

When you fill out the Census, your personally identifiable information will not be shared with any other government agency. Your information is confidential and protected by ironclad federal laws. It's important to note that, by law, each person living in the United States is required to participate in the Census. Moreover, our families, children, and neighbors are counting on us to participate so we all have the critical resources and representation that we need and deserve.

The 2020 Census will not have a citizenship question, and even if you can't vote you can be counted.

As a result of the June 27 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, there will not be a question about citizenship status on the 2020 Census. Every person, regardless of immigration status, has the right to be counted in the 2020 Census and we will work together as people of faith to make sure we are all counted.

Throughout history, the U.S. Census has been used as a tool of exclusion, but we can reclaim it as a tool for equity, democracy, and justice.

Historically, the Census has been used as a tool of white supremacy, denying political representation, public resources and recognition of dignity to people of color. In the early decennial Census' of our country, enslaved people of African descent were counted as only 3/5 of a person and most Native Americans weren't counted at all. The legacy of racist systems that have privileged white communities with access to capital and education have contributed to people of color consistently being undercounted in the decennial Census. In the 2010 Census, 3.7 million African Americans and 3.8 million Hispanics were not counted. The faith community has a moral responsibility to dismantle white supremacy and further inclusion for all people. Ensuring everyone is counted in the 2020 Census is a matter of racial justice that is long overdue.

Completing the Census is easy, and there is support available for you and your community.

You can choose how you want to respond – online, by paper, or over the phone. Telephone assistance and an online questionnaire will be available in 12 languages, and paper forms will be translated in English and Spanish, *with glossaries available in 59 non-English languages and Braille on the Census Bureau's website.* You can get in touch with Faith in Public Life with questions, and be in touch with these hotlines for assistance:

- **NALEO Educational Fund's Spanish/English Hotline: 877-352-3676**
- **Census Bureau Telephone Questionnaire Assistance Line: 1-800-354-7271**

Integrating the Census Into Worship:
Census Sermon Guide

Dignity

- We believe that all people, regardless of race, religion, or immigration status, are made in the divine image. Our existence and our divinely given dignity demand recognition by our government. That means we must all be counted in the Census.
- What we declare when we answer the Census is that we are here, and we are part of "we the people" and we refuse to be excluded.
- "Fear not" is the most often-repeated phrase in Hebrew and Christian scripture – mentioned a combined 365 times. Do not be afraid to state your presence by answering the Census.
- Originally, the Census counted every white man, woman and child as a full person, counted enslaved people of African descent as ? of a person, and didn't count Native Americans at all. But now we have an opportunity to reclaim the census as a tool for dignity, justice, and equity.

Community

- When you count yourself by completing the Census, you are also making sure your neighbor's child has a seat in their classroom and their mother has access to medical care. We must work together to make sure that everyone in our community is counted so we all get the resources we deserve.
- The 2020 Census' impact on our communities is profound. It shapes everything from whether we have fair political representation in Congress to whether our roads, hospitals, schools and fire departments have the funding they need to support our health and well-being.
- You count in this country. Your work and your contribution to the common good moves beyond the walls of where we worship. Your voice matters. All people, regardless of your voting eligibility, can be counted in the census.

Democracy

- If we are undercounted in the Census, we are under-represented in Congress, diminishing our voices and depriving us of democracy and equality.
- A full, accurate count lays the foundation for a healthy democracy and communities where families thrive and flourish. By completing the Census and encouraging our communities do so, we claim our rightful representation and fulfill our responsibility to our neighbors and future generations.
- It is important to be counted in the Census because it provides economic empowerment and political empowerment. To participate in our democracy is to be counted.

Litany on Dignity and Justice

Reader: God, you tell us that we are made in your image. We believe that all people, regardless of race, religion, or immigration status have inherent dignity because you made us. Our God-given dignity demands recognition.

All: We will celebrate our dignity and we will count ourselves!

Reader: We know you long for the freedom of all people and for chains of oppression to break. For far too long, too many of your children have been excluded and counted as less than human, which has resulted in inequality and injustice. But we know you count each of us as equal in your eyes.

All: Just as you count us, we will count ourselves!

Reader: You've commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves. When we count ourselves, we are helping make sure not only our needs are met, but also that our neighbors have good schools, hospitals, roads, critical resources, and fair political representation.

All: For our neighbors, we will count ourselves!

Reader: Lord, you assure us to 'fear not.' You walk with us in our lives and we trust in your spirit and guidance. We proclaim ourselves as your children and our dignified presence in this nation.

All: We declare our presence and we will count ourselves!

Sacred Texts Related to the Census and Justice

Hebrew Bible

- "The Lord spoke to Moses in the tent of meeting in the Desert of Sinai… He said: 'Take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man by name, one by one.'" (Numbers 1:1-2)
- "Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all." (Proverbs 22:2)
- "Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." (Proverbs 31:9)
- "Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression." (Isaiah 1:17)
- "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." (Amos 5: 23-24)

New Testament Christian Scriptures

- "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world…So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child." (Luke 2:1-5)
- "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed." (Luke 4:18)
- "But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." (1 Corinthians 12:24-26)

Islamic Scriptures

- "He knows each one of them, and has counted them a full counting." (Maryam 19:94)
- "Surely those who deny the truth spend their wealth to hinder people from the way of Allah, and will continue to so spend until their efforts become a source of intense regret for them." (Al-Qur'an 8:36)
- "Do not mix truth with falsehood or hide the truth knowingly." (Al-Baqarah 2:42)
- "They ask thee what they should spend. Say, 'Let whatever of your wealth you spend be for parents, kinsfolk, orphans, the indigent, and the traveler. Whatever good you do, truly God knows it.'" (Al-Baqarah 2:215)
- "You will never attain piety till you spend from that which you love. And whatever you spend, truly God knows it." (Ali 'Imran 3:92)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Census?

The U.S. Constitution mandates that every 10 years the U.S. government count every person residing in the United States through the Census. The data collected is the basis of our democratic representation, critical to the protection of civil rights, used to annually distribute billions of dollars in federal funds to states and local communities, and helps businesses and other sectors make informed decisions. The data collected is used for the next decade.

Does it make a difference whether I participate in the census?

A fair and accurate Census is one of the most significant civil rights and economic justice issues facing our country today. In addition to ensuring fair political representation, enforcing civil rights laws and effective policy planning, census data are used to distribute federal, state, and local resources equitably and prudently. Federal agencies use census data to allocate over $800 billion each year for vital community services such as emergency response, hospitals, job-training centers, schools, senior centers, nutrition assistance programs, bridges, tunnels and other public works projects.

Communities of color, urban and rural low-income households, immigrants and young children have historically been undercounted, which has deprived these already vulnerable communities of the fair representation and vital community resources we all need to build a thriving community. Your community can only get the full funding and representation it deserves when every single individual is counted in the Census -- including you, your family, and every person who lives in your household.

How do I respond to the Census?

The 2020 Census will be the first census to offer an online response option. However, everyone has the option of participating in the Census on paper through the mail, over the phone, or online. Most households (80%) will receive a letter in the mail inviting them to respond online with a unique identification code. With the identification code, you will be able to fill out the 2020 Census online. If you do not respond online using the identification code provided in the mail, a paper questionnaire will be sent to you which you can fill out and mail back to the Census Bureau. The other 20% of households, mostly seniors and people with no internet, will be sent a paper questionnaire to be completed and returned by mail. Those mailings will also include the option to complete the survey online.

If you do not respond to the paper questionnaire or skip questions on the form, individual Census official will try to contact you by knocking on your door.
(See the important 2020 Census dates).

Is the information that I provide to the government confidential?

Yes. The U.S. Census Bureau will keep your responses to the survey secure and encrypted at all times.

Several legal protections exist to safeguard your privacy and the confidentiality of your responses. Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, census data can only be used for statistical purposes, meaning personal information cannot be used against respondents in court or by a government agency. Personal census information cannot be disclosed for 72 years (includes names, addresses, Social Security numbers, and telephone numbers). Census Bureau staff who have access to personal information are sworn for life to protect confidentiality. The Census Act includes strict confidentiality provisions prohibiting any employees of the Commerce Department or Census Bureau from using information collected via the decennial census for anything other than the production of statistical datasets.

Can I still respond to the census if I'm not a U.S. citizen?

Yes. The U.S. Constitution requires that the Census counts every resident in the United States regardless of their immigration status. All people should be counted to ensure that our community is fully counted.

Will there be a question about citizenship on the 2020 Census survey?

No! As a result of the June 27 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, the administration has abandoned its plans to add a question on U.S. citizenship to the 2020 Census. Judges in all three lower court cases (New York, Maryland, California) issued orders to permanently block:

- Addition of the citizenship question or any effort to ask about citizenship on the 2020 Census
- Any delay in the printing of Census questionnaires after June 30.

Important Dates to Emphasize the Census

October 2019 | National Hispanic Heritage Month

- **1st** Six months out from Census Day, April 1, 2020
- **7th** National Child Health Day
- **14th** Indigenous Peoples' Day

November 2019 | National Homeless Youth Awareness Month
National Native American Indian Heritage Month

January 2020

- **20th** Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

February 2020 | Black History Month

March 2020 | 2020 Census self-response packets are mailed to residences

- **2nd** Read Across America Day
- **3rd** Super Tuesday
- **16th** Census begins in rural and remote areas without reliable or direct mail
- **31st** Cesar Chavez Day

April 2020 | Census officials begin visiting college campuses, senior centers, transitory housing, and those experiencing homelessness.

- **1st Census Day –** By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census.
- **30th** Día del Niño

May – July 2020 | The Census Bureau begins visiting homes that have not responded.

- **May 1st** May Day
- **May 7th** National Teacher Appreciation Day

August 2020 Census wraps up.

December 2020 The Census Bureau delivers apportionment counts to the White House and Congress, as required by law.

March 31, 2021 By this date, the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to states. This information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes.

Additional Resources:

Faith in Public Life www.FaithInPublicLife.org/census

Census Counts 2020 www.CensusCounts.org

Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights www.civilrights.org/census

The Hard to Count Map shows which Census tracts had the lowest mail response rates in 2010: www.censushardtocountmaps2020.us

Partnership for American's Children: www.countallkids.org

Asian American Advancing Justice: www.countusin2020.org

Arab American Institute: www.aaiusa.org/census

National Congress of American Indians: www.indiancountrycounts.org

National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials: www.hagasecontar.org

NAACP: www.naacp.org/2020-census

American Library Association: www.ala.org/advocacy/govinfo/census

National LGBTQ Task Force: www.thetaskforce.org/queerthecensus

League of Women Voters: www.lwv.org/other-issues/census

Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund: www.dredf.org/2020-census-disability-community-toolkit/

Census Bureau: https://2020census.gov/en.html

Factsheets:

- NALEO Make Yourself Count in 2020 | Hágase contar en 2020
- Leadership Conference Why the Census Counts
- Leadership Conference Hard to Count: Young Children and Their Communities
- Leadership Conference Latinos in the 2020 Census
- Leadership Conference African Americans in the 2020 Census
- Leadership Conference People living in poverty in the 2020 Census
- Georgetown Center of Poverty and Inequality: Counting People Experiencing Homelessness

Will she be counted?

Our school funding depends on **everyone** being counted in the 2020 Census.

Unfortunately, many children are not counted in the Census. And when someone isn't counted it means our community loses out on funding we need for everything from teachers, to local roads and health clinics.

How you can help:

- ✓ Participate in the 2020 Census.
- ✓ Make sure children in your home are counted.
- ✓ Sign up to be a Faith Census Ambassador.

To get our fair share of funding we all must stand up and be counted.

www.FaithInPublicLife.org/census

FAITH IN PUBLIC LIFE

FAITH
IN PUBLIC LIFE

Let's make sure **everyone** **is counted** in the 2020 Census!

"God created humankind in God's own image, in the image of God he created them." – *Genesis 1:27*

We believe that all people, regardless of race, religion, or immigration status, are made in God's image. Our divinely granted dignity demands equal recognition. When we participate in the Census, we claim our God-given dignity and declare that we are here.

The Census only happens once a decade and it is our opportunity to declare that **we are here.** Unfortunately, too many of us are not counted which results in less funding for our local schools and hospitals. $800 billion of federal funds are distributed based on who is counted in the Census, so there's a lot at stake!

Our political representation is determined by how many people in our community are counted in the Census. When our neighbors are not counted it weakens our collective voice to make change.

Each and every one of us is part of "We The People" and we refuse to be excluded.

Stand up and be counted:

- **Make a commitment now to participate in the 2020 Census.**
- **Educate your friends and family on why it's so important to be counted.**
- **Get involved by emailing Faith in Public Life at *Census2020@faithinpubliclife.org***

You can help your community be fully counted!

To learn more visit www.FaithinPublicLife.org/census