



# 2020 Census: A Guide for People with I/DD and Their Families

## What is the census?

Every 10 years, the government reports the number of people who live in the U.S. by conducting a count called the Census. The count is required by the U.S. Constitution. For more information, visit: [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

## Why is the census count necessary?

The census determines how many seats each state receives in the U.S. House of Representatives. Each state is guaranteed at least one seat in the House. Additional seats are appointed based on state population, with the most populated states receiving the most seats.

Why is Census Data So important?	How is the Census Taken?	Who Should be Counted?	Questions on the 2020 Census
<p>⇒ The Census is so much more than just recording basic information such as age, gender and race. State, local and federal governments use Census information for planning and allocating billions in federal funds for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New school construction</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Highway safety</li> <li>• Public transportation</li> <li>• Medicaid</li> <li>• Disability services (e.g. DDD, PerformCare)</li> <li>• Hospital funding</li> <li>• School funding (including Special Education)</li> <li>• Location of fire and police departments</li> </ul>	<p>By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the Census. You will have three options for responding:</p> <p>⇒ <b>Online:</b> The 2020 Census marks the first time you'll have the option to respond online. You can even respond on your mobile device.</p> <p>⇒ <b>Phone:</b> Online and phone options will be available in 12 languages.</p> <p>⇒ <b>Mail:</b> Hard-copy mail forms will only be available in English and Spanish.</p> <p>* If you don't respond by late April you will receive a home visit from a census worker.</p>	<p>⇒ Everyone who lives in the household should be counted, regardless of nationality, citizenship status, race, age and gender.</p> <p>⇒ All people should be counted at their place of residence. <i>This includes individuals living in community residential programs such as group homes, supported living apartments, community care residences and PerformCare out of home placements.</i></p> <p>⇒ For more information, visit: <a href="https://2020census.gov/en/who-to-count.html">2020census.gov/en/who-to-count.html</a></p> <p>⇒ If you have questions about who should be counted or where they should be counted, contact us at <a href="mailto:thefamilyinstitute@arcnj.org">thefamilyinstitute@arcnj.org</a>.</p>	<p>For a sample of the paper questionnaire that will be used during the 2020 Census, go to <a href="https://bit.ly/2020censussamplesurvey">bit.ly/2020censussamplesurvey</a>.</p> <p>This version excludes some features that will be made available to households starting March 2020, such as the URL for online response and the contact information for phone response.</p> <p>⇒ All Census responses are kept confidential and private. It's the law. Your responses cannot be shared and cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way. It's also an oath every Census Bureau employee must swear to uphold.</p> <p>⇒ Language Guides: <a href="https://bit.ly/censuslanguageguides">bit.ly/censuslanguageguides</a></p>