

From Albuquerque Community Foundation

Good Day,

New Mexico is at risk of a significant undercount in the 2020 Census and **we need your help**. Due to last minute changes by the U.S. Census Bureau (the "Bureau"), New Mexico's residents' right to be counted is in jeopardy. Most recently, the Bureau shortened the deadline to participate in the 2020 Census to September 30 — a full month earlier than planned.

Right now, New Mexico is in danger of losing more than \$300 million per year — more than \$3 billion over the next 10 years — based on current response rates. The loss of that level of funding in light of extreme additional needs created by COVID-19 will be devastating to New Mexico. We have also been told an undercount may mean fewer COVID-19 vaccines for New Mexico once one is developed. If the federal government does not have an accurate count of how many people live in New Mexico we may not receive an adequate supply of vaccines.

A census undercount means cuts for Title I schools and school food programs, cuts for firefighters and first responders, less road funding and reduced access to health care for the next 10 years. It also potentially changes our congressional representation. It is critical that all residents are counted, all our voices are heard and that our communities get the funding they deserve.

We are rural and urban. We are parents and children. We are diverse. We are mixed-status. We are essential. We are New Mexico and we must be counted.

Go to [I Count NM](#) and click on "Full Census Ambassador Toolkit" for actions you can take to contribute to a complete count today. There is also great information about how an undercount affects different areas of concern, such as education, human services, agriculture and food, healthcare, and representation.

We are asking all of our grantees to take action to support the census TODAY! **Please be a census ambassador to your community, friends and family.** Will you join us to make sure everyone is counted?

In Partnership,

Randy Royster, President and CEO.
Albuquerque Community Foundation

Co-Chair, NM Counts 2020