

January 31, 2020

## 2020 U.S. Census Impacts Communities

U.S. Census results help to determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into each state and its communities, and every resident not counted in 2020 potentially costs Ohio thousands of dollars annually over the next 10 years. In mid-March, homes will begin receiving information about how to respond to the 2020 U.S. Census. Once this information arrives, Ohioans are encouraged to respond by mail, by telephone, or for the first time this year, online available in numerous languages.

The Census asks basic questions about age, sex, and the number of people living in the household, including children. The census will **never** ask for Social Security numbers, credit card or banking numbers, money or donations, or political party information. [Click here](#) for a 2020 Census FAQ sheet.

A U.S. Census Bureau employee will follow up in-person by May with households that have not responded. If a census worker follows up in-person, residents have the right to ask for identification to ensure they're speaking with an official census worker. The Census Bureau will not reach out by email.

Participating in the Census ensures that communities are accurately counted to help plan for future needs. Each year, census results determine how \$675 billion in federal and state funds are distributed. The collected data helps businesses, researchers, and communities to make decisions about housing, education, transportation, employment, health care, and public policy. Census data is also used to redraw boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts and determine the number of congressional seats that each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Census completion may be complicated for people displaced from multiple 2019 tornadoes in our region. People who are temporarily displaced by natural disasters are to be counted at their usual residence to which they intend to return. People in temporary group living quarters will be counted where they live and sleep most of the time, or at the facility, if they do not report a usual home elsewhere. An effort will be made to count people who are living homeless in shelters or elsewhere, again in an effort to produce an accurate portrait of our 2020 population.

The Census is offering many opportunities for important, short-term employment. More information on the upcoming census including overall information, frequently-asked questions, and job opportunities is available at [development.ohio.gov/census/2020/](http://development.ohio.gov/census/2020/).