

LUCA Newsletter Blurb

Help the Census Bureau Accurately Count Your Community

The U.S. Census Bureau requests help from tribal, state and local governments in the 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses program. This program is the **only opportunity** for governments to verify residential addresses, ensuring a complete and accurate 2020 Census.

Invitation letters were mailed in July 2017 and reminders were sent in late September 2017. The final participation materials will be mailed in February 2018. Governments can take the following steps now to prepare:

- Start preparing your address list — make sure your list identifies multiunit structures and distinguishes between residential and nonresidential addresses.
- Identify local address sources, such as building permits, local utility records, annexation records and other files.
- Attend one of [our workshops](#) to learn about the program.
- Prepare to participate in the [2018 Boundary and Annexation Survey](#), which is the annual update for the legal boundaries and names of all governmental units. Invitation letters will be sent in January 2018.

Participation in the Local Update of Census Addresses program can help ensure a complete and accurate 2020 Census in your community.

For more information, visit the [program website](#).

1. Can you briefly explain what the Local Update of Census Address program is?

The Local Update of Census Addresses program is a joint effort between the Census Bureau and tribal, state and local government entities to update their address lists to help ensure an accurate count of their communities in the 2020 Census. We expect there to be over 330 million people in more than 140 million housing units by the next Census in 2020. It is a big job to check that many addresses and consulting with governments — which have the best knowledge of how their communities have changed in the last 10 years — helps ensure the 2020 Census will be as accurate as possible. By verifying and updating their address lists, governments can make sure that everyone living in their area has a chance to participate in the decennial census.

2. Who is best suited to help the Census Bureau understand the needs of local communities?

Tribal, state and local governments have unique knowledge about their communities. The Local Update of Census Addresses program provides a platform for those entities to share that knowledge with the Census Bureau and ensure that everyone in their community is counted. In order to have a successful decennial census, it is critical that the Census Bureau have an accurate and up-to-date address list. This program is a way for governments to contribute to a complete and accurate count in 2020.

3. Why is a partnership with the Census Bureau important?

Decennial census data are used for many community decisions. The decennial census enables government officials, businesses, planners and the public to understand trends and developments in individual communities and across the nation. This makes it important for every community to have the most accurate decennial census possible.

The Local Update of Census Addresses program is an opportunity for governments to contribute to a successful decennial census in their community. Tribal, state and local governments know their communities: they know where changes are taking place and where new housing is being built. Collaborating with the Census Bureau to create a more accurate list of addresses is an effective way for governments to contribute to an accurate count in their community.

4. How can participation in the Local Update of Census Addresses program impact your community?

This program can have a profound effect on communities in a variety of ways. One of the first things that comes to mind is political representation. The decennial census is mandated by the Constitution to determine representation in Congress and to provide a basis for establishing congressional districts. This program helps make sure that the address list for your community is as accurate as possible so that your community is fully represented.

Decennial census data are also used to allocate federal funds at the local level for such things as public health, programs to assist the elderly, building new roads, education and a host of others. Decision-makers in the community need accurate information from the Census Bureau to make informed decisions regarding their community's needs.

Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program Talking Points

- The Census Bureau's goal for the 2020 Census is to count everyone once, only once and in the right place. The program presents an opportunity for you to help us get a complete and accurate count for your community by reviewing and commenting on the address list we have for your community.
- To count everyone in your community accurately, we have to know where to count them. No one knows better than you how your community has changed in the last 10 years — where new housing has been built, how addresses have changed.
- We have made participating in the program even easier; giving you digital tools, streamlined option for participating and the ability to review and submit structure coordinates.
- Your participation affects the accuracy of your community's decennial census count, the amount of federal dollars returned to your community and how your community plans for the future.
- The Local Update of Census Addresses program is the **only opportunity** for you to review and comment on our address list for the 2020 Census.
- You can prepare now by:
 - Participating in the 2017 Boundary and Annexation Survey.
 - The Boundary and Annexation Survey, or the annual update for legal boundaries and names of all governmental units in the U.S., is an important building block of the Local Update of Census Addresses program. It is important that we have your input to the 2017 Boundary and Annexation Survey by May 31, 2017, so we can make sure our address list is complete and accurate.
 - Preparing your address list — make sure your list identifies multiunit structures and distinguishes between residential and nonresidential addresses.
 - Identifying local address sources, such as building permits, local utility records, annexation records and other files.
 - For more information, visit census.gov or attend one of our workshops.