



From: Dave Geenen, Doris and Victor Day Foundation
RE: Partner Update
Date: 3.23.2020

Hello, Census Champions,

Sharing a few updates for your consideration and dissemination.

1. Census Bureau Operational Adjustments in the Wake of COVID-19: Lifting up two helpful guides on census operational shifts from the U.S. Census Bureau:
 - [2020 Census Operational Adjustments](#)
 - [2020 Census Operational Adjustments - Long Version](#)

As a reminder, on Friday, the Census Bureau held a [press briefing on additional operational updates](#) ([recording available here](#)) in the wake of COVID-19. The co-chairs of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' Census Task Force issued [this statement](#) in response.

2. Debunk Rumor linking Federal stimulus package and census response: We're recommending that coalition members proactively debunk a rumor linking the Federal stimulus package and census response. Last week and over the weekend, a series of posts emerged on social media claiming that eligibility for relief checks intended to blunt economic fallout from Covid-19 would be determined by whether or not one has responded to the census. While not yet a major narrative, this rumor has spread across multiple platforms, including private messaging applications. The Bureau just [added it to its rumors](#) page, which means that it's worth addressing in a targeted fashion. Please share the following messaging on social media and via list-serves:
 - Rumors linking the Federal stimulus package and census response are completely false and have been debunked by the media (<https://www.localmemphis.com/mobile/article/news/verify/verify-proposed-stimulus-checks-census/507-4d05409d-23ed-420e-b312-8459bd29defc>) and the Census Bureau

<https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/rumors/stimulus-packages.html>). The stimulus is meant to help people who are in very

real economic need as a result of the COVID-19 health pandemic. It is not at all associated with the census. In fact, federal law keeps individual data or personal responses collected by the Census Bureau confidential for 72 years. That means the Census Bureau can't share your personal information with other government agencies or anyone else, and your responses won't affect any public benefits you receive.

- Now is actually a great time for you to take the census from the comfort of your own home at 2020census.gov. Remember: the census will determine how more than \$1.5 trillion dollars in federal funding flow into our communities every year for the next decade and how political power is distributed. It's important to make your voice heard. Fill out the census today.

3. Response Rates Available: To date, at least 21% of households have responded to the 2020 Census. Data are now on the [Hard to Count map](#) developed by CUNY Mapping Service at the Center for Urban Research, CUNY Graduate Center.

[Check out self response rates to date for your state or community here.](#)

During this period, households can still respond to the 2020 Census and households in the update/leave universe that have not received their packets and want to respond can participate in the census using non-ID response. It's critical that we continue to lift up the importance of responding to the census and how easy it is to do from the comfort of your own home.

Please reference the following talking points:

- Public health and safety is absolutely critical at this moment of uncertainty. That is the case for the public as well as Census Counts organizations, staff, and volunteers.
- We must fulfill our constitutional obligation to complete the 2020 Census and count every single person in the United States. Our country's future depends on it.
- Fortunately, it has never been easier and more accessible to respond to the census on your own -- online, over the phone, or by mail--all without having to meet someone in person.
- The 2020 Census is a modern, technology-enabled process that was designed precisely to offer multiple ways to respond. The Census Bureau is able to make necessary adaptations at the local level for special operations as well, as needed.

- By now, many households have received an invitation in the mail to complete the census. This was planned and continues uninterrupted by the coronavirus.
- The census website 2020Census.gov is also live and can accept your response in English and 12 non English languages or by calling phone questionnaire assistance: <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond/responding-by-phone.html>).
- The Census Bureau, alongside the hundreds of organizations in the Census Counts Coalition, is prepared and is continuing to do everything possible to accurately complete the census.
- Right now, our priority is clear: Making sure that as many people as possible complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. It has never been easier to self-report.

Thank you! Wishing you well.