

Are You Ready for the 2020 Census?

Census Field Operations to Start This Month

The U.S. Census Bureau is starting a widespread follow-up throughout the months of August and September. Limited follow-up operations began today. Starting August 11, a majority of Census offices across the country will begin follow-up work.

In a [statement \(available via this link\)](#) sent on August 3, the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, Steven Dillingham, said, “The U.S. Census Bureau continues to evaluate its operational plans to collect and process 2020 Census data. Today, we are announcing updates to our plan that will include enumerator awards and the hiring of more employees to accelerate the completion of data collection and apportionment counts by our statutory deadline of December 31, 2020, as required by law and directed by the Secretary of Commerce.”

As part of their operational changes, the Census Bureau will be conducting additional training sessions and keep mobile devices used for enumeration in use for the maximum time possible.

In addition to field data collection, there is still time for households to fill out the 2020 Census independent of the Census Bureau’s follow-up. Households can respond to the Census by phone at (844) 330-2020 or [online via this link](#).

Field data collection and self-response will end on September 30, 2020.

Census Response Rates Available Online

With the 2020 Census underway, tracking your community’s response rate and assisting in increasing response rates is critical. The response rate map is updated daily and provides response rates down to an individual Census tract. For more information and to track your community’s response rate, [visit the U.S. Census Bureau’s website via this link](#).

IML Publishes Fact Sheet on the 2020 Census Impact on Home Rule Authority in Illinois

The 2020 Census will have an impact on the kind of authority communities throughout Illinois have when it comes to various issues, including home rule status. Municipalities with more than 25,000 residents automatically receive home rule status and are allowed expanded powers under the Illinois State Constitution. These expanded powers allow communities to take greater control over their local affairs.

If you are in a community that could fall below 25,001, then there is a process you may have to undertake after the 2020 Census.

The Illinois Municipal League (IML) has published [a fact sheet \(available via this link\)](#) to answer your questions regarding the 2020 Census and home rule authority by population.

Connect with a Census Partnership Specialist Near You

The 2020 Census affects your voice in government, how much funding your community receives and how your community plans for the future. Partnership specialists play an important role in their communities by working with local organizations to raise awareness, trust and participation in the 2020 Census.

To find out more about the 2020 Census partnership program, job openings and how to connect with your local partnership specialist, visit 2020Census.gov/partners.

Questions About the 2020 Census?

The Census Bureau's Intergovernmental Affairs Office (IAO) works with tribal, state, county and local governments both directly and through national and regional organizations that advocate on their behalf to share information about Census Bureau programs and products.

IAO encourages supportive policy development by intergovernmental and tribal associations, serving as a conduit by which these associations and governments communicate their concerns to the Census Bureau. For more information on Census Bureau programs, please call (301) 763-6100 or email ocia.iao@census.gov.

Anyone with questions about Illinois' Census efforts can contact the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Census Office by email at DHS.CensusNOFO@illinois.gov or by phone at (844) 950-0986 or (217) 786-0046.

Past Census Updates and Other Resources

If you are looking for past IML monthly census updates or additional resources about the 2020 Census, visit iml.org/census. IML will continually update the site to include new information, as it becomes available, and other resources until the completion of the 2020 Census.

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