

Emergency Services Blog: Participating in the Census now can help support your community in a time of emergency

Every ten years, the US Constitution requires a count of all persons in the US, known as a Census. The Census is a time for every adult, child, and baby in the United States will be counted as part of the 2020 Census, fulfilling the US Constitution requirement which mandates the US population be counted every ten years. People are able to participate in the census online, by phone, or through a paper questionnaire. The online census at www.my2020census.gov launched on March 12th and will stay open till July 31st. All people living in the US must complete their census by July 31, 2020.

The Census brings many benefits to the community. It determines billions of dollars of federal funding that California receives every year, which funds healthcare, education, housing, infrastructure, and so much more including emergency services. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, a complete and accurate count is more critical than ever to ensure that governments know and understand the makeup of each community and can address their unique needs.

In a time like this, with the COVID-19 pandemic looming over the state, it's important to remember that the Census contributes to emergency services preparedness. The information collected from the Census aids emergency services planners in estimating how many people are in the area and what they would need to help everyone in case of any type of emergency. Information collected from the Census is used by local, state, and national emergency service providers to prepare for situations just like the COVID-19 pandemic that we are in right now.

Filling out your questionnaire is easy and safe! Each invitation includes a code, use this code to fill out your census online at my2020census.gov. Filling out the census over the phone is also an option to complete the questionnaire at home, call (844) 330-2020 to fill out your survey in English or [go here to find a phone number in your language](#). If you wish to respond in the mail, physical surveys will be sent out to households that do not respond online or on the phone! The invitation and survey will not ask you for a social security number, banking information, card numbers, political associations, or for money- be mindful of scams and fraud attempts!

Any data you share with the Census, or with Census enumerators, are protected by federal law, specifically Title 13 of the United States Code. Your information cannot be shared by the Census Bureau with any other government agencies or other entities, including your landlord, for any reason. Your information will remain private for 72 years until it can be shared for historical purposes by the National Archives. 2020 Census data will be private until 2092, by law.

California is a home for all, and everyone here counts. So, for yourself, your community, for California! Get more information from your local community at: ADD YOUR WEBSITE

Learn more about what the US Census Bureau: www.2020Census.gov