

# Census 101: #IAmCounted



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# About the Orgs That Helped Put The Packet Together



*Image Description: There is a red circle with a blue background on it. On the background is the accessibility symbol formed by multi-colored dots, above the Chicago skyline. Below the skyline is a phrase in red text that says "CHICAGOLAND DPOCC (pronounced DEE-Paak)"*

Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition, or Chicagoland DPOCC (pronounced DEE-paak), is a group of people of color with disabilities in the Chicagoland area who spreads disability pride and advocacy in communities of color.

Chicagoland DPOCC is supported by the Institute on Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

Website:

<https://chicagolanddpocc.wordpress.com/>



*Image Description:*  
Background is a white skyline of Chicago on a blue semi-circle. Above the skyline are four red stars, each with six points on them. On the logo is a phrase in red and blue text that says: "Counting on Chicago Coalition 2020: BE COUNTED!"

**DISABILITY AND  
HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
COLLEGE OF  
APPLIED HEALTH  
SCIENCES**



*Image Description:* A phrase in black and grey text that says: "Disability and Human Development; College of Applied Health Sciences", Below the phrase is a black

Counting on Chicago Coalition is a group of community groups in Chicago who help people fill out the 2020 Census and spread the word about the census in Chicago neighborhoods, including neighborhoods on the West and South Side of Chicago.

The Institute on Disability and Human Development (IDHD) is a part of that group.

Website:

[www.countingonchicago.org](http://www.countingonchicago.org)  
[9](#)

The Institute on Disability and Human Development (IDHD), which it's within the University of Illinois at Chicago, is dedicated to promoting the independence, productivity, and inclusion of people with disabilities in all parts of society.

They do research and send

*circle with a word in white  
text that says "UIC" inside the  
circle.*

information on those topics  
to scholars, people in the  
community, legislators, and  
much more!

Website:

<http://ahs.uic.edu/disability-human-development/institute-on-disability-and-human-development/>

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# Introduction

Hello everyone!

Every ten years, people in the United States fill out the Census form. It helps people in many ways, like building more roads and important places like schools and hospitals, giving states more Congresspeople (which means more federal legislators for people to go to speak up and speak out), and giving people a better picture of how many people from many backgrounds are in the United States.

But some people, including people with disabilities, are not willing to fill out the Census. Some are afraid that the government can use their information without their permission, while others are not sure about how filling out the Census helps them. Some may need help filling out the Census, but don't know who to ask or where to go for help.

All of those things are understandable; it's okay

to have those fears about the Census.

Luckily, we have a packet for you that can help you get a better idea of what the Census is and how you can fill it out. This packet gives information about the purpose of the Census, how the Census can help people with disabilities, ways to fill out the Census form, and where to find more information about the Census.

You will learn about how you can spread the word about the Census to your friends, family members, your co-workers...everyone you know in your community!



# Notes on Accessibility

To make sure a lot of people could get access to the Census 101 packet, we have added a couple of features that make the packet as accessible as possible.

Text in the packet is large; we made the text bigger for people with visual disabilities to read the material with ease.

We use plain, person-first language throughout the packet. This allows for readers to understand what we are saying, without using jargon or words that only a few of us would recognize. Plus we make each section as short as possible so that everyone could get an idea about important parts of the Census.

As far as person-first language (like “people with disabilities” or person with a disability”)...we use it because it is one of the preferred ways that people of disabilities describe themselves. To

avoid any potential confusion, we will use words like “people with disabilities” in the whole packet.

Lastly, we write image descriptions under each picture we use for the packet. This helps some people with disabilities get an idea of what the image looks like if they cannot see the image.

# What is the Census?



*Image Description: Phrase in black text that says: "United States Census 2020"*

You may have heard of people talking about filling out the Census form every ten years. The United States government is encouraging people to take it again in 2020. The last time people took the census was in 2010, which was ten years ago.

But you might ask: "What is the Census? What are they talking about?"

The U.S. government must count everyone living in the United States every ten years. They also call it, *the Census*. The government must do Census counts because it's the law; [Article I, Section II, Clause 3](#) of the Constitution says that Congress (where U.S. senators and

representatives make federal laws) must count people in the United States every ten years, starting in 1790.

There's been many changes to questions on the Census forms, who gets counted in the Census, and what the Census can be used for. But no matter how the Census has changed over the years, it is still used to count EVERYONE living in the United States.

# Why is the Census important?

The Census is important for plenty of reasons.

The Census determines how many U.S. representatives that a state could have. In [Article I, Section II, Clause III of the Constitution](#), every 30,000 people in a state gets one U.S. Representative.

The more people that live in a state, the more U.S. Representatives a state could get. If your state has more representatives, then your state can have more people in Congress who can speak for people in your state when you want laws to change, be added, or removed.

If your area has over 30,000 people, your city or town can have someone who can be a voice for your hometown. No one can speak for what's going on in your area better than someone who lives there!

The Census does not only give states the opportunity to have more U.S. Representatives, it also gives federal and local groups the chance to help people in local areas. For example, groups can use the Census to see how many people of color, people with disabilities, and other people are there in a certain place. They can use the information to encourage leaders in that place to create resources for the community, such as hospitals, street/road repairs, schools, and more.

More people in your area means more money and resources that could be available for everyone!

# How does the Census help me as a person with a disability?



*Image Description: Two wheelchair users and two people sitting on chairs at a green table, playing a board game*

Some of you may be wondering, “what does the Census have to do with me?”, or “how does the Census help people with disabilities, like me?”

The Census helps people with disabilities in the United States in many different ways, and some of those ways are not possible without making sure that everyone is counted in the census. That includes ALL people with disabilities living in the U.S.!

For example, being counted in the Census can help your local area receive more money to make places and public transportation accessible for people with disabilities. Local governments can use the Census to figure out ways to help people with disabilities. They can also receive more money and resources for people who need them, especially those who are looking for medical care, food, and more essential things that are important for living and thriving as people with disabilities.

Plus, having more people in your area means that you have a U.S. representative you can go to! Local results from Census can help you get a Congressperson, which also means that you can talk to your Congressperson about things you would like to see change or happen in your local area. The Census makes it possible for you to talk to your Congressperson about disability rights, fixing roads in your local area, making places more inclusive and accessible to EVERYONE, and much more!



# How can I take the Census?



*Image Description: Smiling person of African descent wearing an ID tag, dark pants, and long grey shirt; they are holding a notebook and talking to a person on their front house porch.*

There are four ways you can take the Census:

[Note: you can request to take the Census, or get information about the Census, in many languages, Braille, or large print\)](#)

- Starting on [the week of August 10th, 2020](#), census workers will come to your door and

ask you questions about the Census. That's one way you can fill out the Census.

- Census workers should practice social distancing when asking you Census questions. That includes standing at least six feet away from you and making sure that they wear masks.
- You can identify census workers by the uniforms they wear. Look for a government ID with the person's picture, ID expiration date, and the "U.S. Department of Commerce" logo on it. You can call your [local census center](#) to make sure that the person is working for the Census department. Go to <https://2020census.gov/en/contact-us/rcc.html> to find the closest census center in your state.
- If you don't want census takers to knock on your door, that is okay! You can take the Census in three other ways:
  - You can take the Census over the phone. Call the U.S. Census at 844-330-2020.
  - Visit [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) to take the Census online on your phone, computer, or tablet.

You can fill out the form online in many languages.

- Check your mailbox for an envelope or postcard that says “United States Census 2020”. You can fill out the Census form on paper and mail your responses in.

*Note: You have until [Wednesday, September 30th, 2020](#) to complete the Census. After September 30th, the Census department will no longer collect information for the 2020 Census.*

# Which questions will come up on the Census?

The Census form has about 12 questions for you to answer. The Census department makes the questions as simple as possible so that everyone could answer and understand the questions. You'll be asked about how many people live with you, what type of home you live in, who are you staying with if you're living with someone else, and your sex and race/ethnicity (plus the race/ethnicity, sex, and the relationships of people living in your home).

There is no question that asks you about your citizenship status. You can participate in the Census, no matter what citizenship status you are. As long as you live in the United States, you can participate in the Census.

# Will they use the information that I put down against me?

No! The information that you give is kept safe with the Census department. They will only use your information for research purposes, and they will not use your name in research projects.

Census takers, and in the Census forms, you are asked to give your name and phone number. No worries, the Census department will only use your number to ask you more questions, if needed.

If you would like to know more about how the Census makes sure that the whole process is safe, visit the U.S. Census website about Census security at [2020census.gov](https://www.census.gov/2020census.gov) and search for information under the “Privacy and Security” tab to the top-right side of your screen.

# How do I take part of making sure people take the Census?



*Image Description: Three circular logos that says “#IAMCounted; #2020Census” in Spanish, Arabic, and English. All three logo have multi-colored shadows of people with disabilities*

You can help people take the Census and learn more about it by joining the #IAMCounted movement!

Created by Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition, and supported by the Institute on Disability & Human Development and Counting on Chicago Coalition, #IAMCounted is a social media campaign where people with disabilities can show the importance of the disability

community being counted in the U.S. census. The disability community is often ignored, but people in that community are just as valuable as everyone else. Everyone counts, including people with disabilities!

You can help make sure that every person with a disability count in the U.S. Census by placing any of the #IAmCounted frames on your Facebook profile, to show that you have completed the census. You can find many versions of those frames by typing “#IAmCounted” in the search box when looking for Facebook profile picture frames.

After adding one of the #IAmCounted frames, you can share your pictures to your family, friends, and more people. Talk about the importance of taking the Census, and you can talk about your experience with completing the Census and why it is important for people with disabilities to complete the Census.

You can also share your picture on other social media sites, like Twitter, Tik Tok, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube.

Make sure to add the hashtags #IAmCounted, #Census2020 (or #2020Census) to your posts; it will help you get more people to see your story about the Census! You can also add hashtags that tie your local area to the Census. For example, you can use #CensusIL2020 if you live in Illinois, or #CountingOnChicago and #CountingOnChicagoCoalition if you live anywhere within the Chicago city limits.

You can add the following links to your #IAmCounted posts as well if people would like more information about the campaign or the U.S. Census:

- #IAmCounted video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsPiPRUQJyc>
- Link to the Census 101 packet: <https://tinyurl.com/Census101-packet>
- U.S. Census website: [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov)
- Link to fill the Census form online: <https://my2020census.gov/>
- Any link from the “Where can I find more information on the Census and its



importance to people with disabilities?”, which starts on page 25.

# Where can I find more information on the Census and its importance to people with disabilities?

If you're looking for more information on the Census, the importance of the Census to people with disabilities, or how to get access to the Census in multiple languages, this is the section where you can get the information that you need.

*Note: Most information listed here is in a form of links to one-pagers & small packets of information and links to websites. Some of the information comes in multiple languages.*

*You may see some forms of information that are not as easy to understand. Have someone to help you go through parts that you might not understand or grasp right away.*

Census 2020, by the Arc (contains one-pagers, videos, webinars, and other resources on the Census in plain language):

<https://thearc.org/census>

Census Counts (Organizations and advocates within Census Counts are working to ensure communities the census has historically missed are counted in the 2020 Census):

<https://censuscounts.org/>

Census Folder in Chicagoland's DPOCC's COVID-19 Resource Database:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fpNFVkJi7sBk860cG\\_WEfTJliQgZ5\\_2p?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fpNFVkJi7sBk860cG_WEfTJliQgZ5_2p?usp=sharing)

How the Census Can Give People With Disabilities a Fair Chance (video by the Arc):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srihZPQS790>

Online U.S. Census Form:

<https://my2020census.gov>

U.S. Census Information (available in many languages, including Spanish, Mandrin Chinese, and Arabic):

<https://2020census.gov/>

Why the Census Matters for People with Disabilities (policy brief by National Disability Rights Network):

<https://www.ndrn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/People-with-Disabilities-Brief.pdf>

# Thank You Note



*Image Description: group of people with disabilities on a light blue background*

We would like to thank you all for checking out the Census 101 packet! We hope that the information in the packet not only helped you give a better understanding of how the Census

works and its importance to people with disabilities, but also give you ways that you can fill out the Census and spread the word about the Census to everyone you know.

We will track how Census 101 is helping people by asking you to fill out a survey. You can talk about how the packet helped you, how can we do a better job with the packet, and things that we should add in the packet for this year and Census 2030. Filling out the survey will help us a lot; we want to make sure that people with disabilities have a voice in the Census every ten years.

We will not ask you for your name, phone number, and other personal, sensitive information. The answers and responses that you decide to give on the survey will be used only to get an idea of who we are reaching with the Census 101 packet.

You can get to the survey by clicking or typing the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/Census101-Survey>

Again, we thank you for reading and spreading the word about Census 101: #IAmCounted!

Complete the census and tell everyone about it if you haven't done so already. And remember, you count...we count...EVERYONE counts.