

**The time is now -
commit to be counted!**



**Census 2020 is live
from March - July 2020!**

Why the Census Matters for African American Communities

The Census is more than just a form that you fill out every 10 years. It brings **MONEY** and **POWER** to African American communities. But how does it do this?

The first thing you need to understand is that many federal financial and political decisions are based on national population counts. We need to know the total number of people currently residing in this country to make these decisions. That is why the census is such an important document – it is the basis for this information!

Money to Communities

Every year, the federal government gives more than \$675 billion dollars in funds, grants and support to the states. This money funds:

- **Health Programs:** Medicare and Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, health care centers, substance use treatment, social services
- **Food Assistance:** WIC, SNAP
- **Educational Programs:** Head Start, Special Education funds, Title 1 funds for students from low-income households and communities, federal student loans and Pell grants
- **Housing Programs:** Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, federally qualified home loans

EACH PERSON that is not counted results in a LOSS of \$12,000 over the next decade.

Power to Communities

It is written into our U.S. Constitution that our national population count is the basis for how we determine political representation.

In other words, the government uses population counts from the census to determine how many seats out of the total 435 seats a state can secure in the U.S. House of Representatives.

All 50 states share these 435 seats, so an accurate count means more accurate political representation in Washington D.C. If we want to make sure the federal government is responsive to the needs of Illinois residents, we want to make sure we don't lose any of these seats.

Illinois lost 1 seat in 2010 and risks losing 1-2 seats in 2020. That's a loss of power.

Three ways to complete your form:



Online



Phone



Mail

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