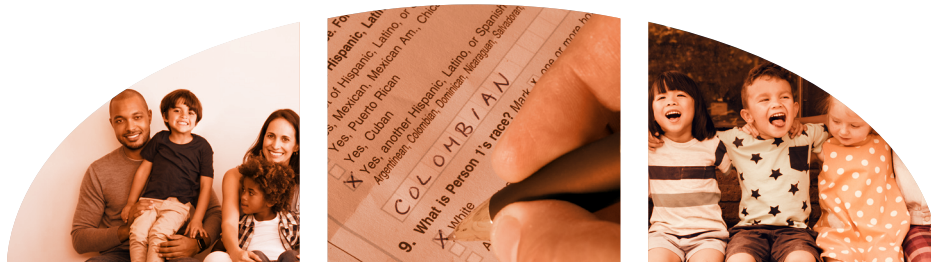




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Why is it important to count Illinois Latinos in the Census?

Latinos in Illinois are at risk of being undercounted, underfunded, and underrepresented.

Illinois' population growth is attributable to its Latinos. They live in every county of the state and represent approximately 17 percent of its total population.

While Latinos are a fast-growing group that contributes significantly to the economy and vitality of Illinois, they also are at a high risk of being undercounted. That's because Latinos are highly represented in categories or groups where undercounting is most likely to occur.

Those groups include immigrants and those living with immigrants, those living in poverty, children under the age of 5, and home renters.

Home internet access is also far lower among Latinos than non-Latinos. This presents a barrier to participation, given the emphasis on internet access for completing the 2020 Census.

Additionally, while there will NOT be a citizenship question on the 2020 Census, the presidential administration's attempt to include one has caused confusion that could deter some Latinos from completing it.

The Census produces detailed data that determine the distribution of more than \$34 billion for Illinois communities where resources are most needed.

Illinoisans rely on Census-informed programs to provide education for students with diverse backgrounds and needs, such as those within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). They also need programs that help low- and

moderate-income families obtain and maintain housing, such as the Single Family Housing Direct Home Loan and Guaranteed Loan programs.

Other federal programs important to Illinois that use Census data include Strengthening Education for Vulnerable Children, Rural Housing Assistance, and Safe Water and Waste Disposal.

Did you know?

- Between 2010 and 2015, Illinois outpaced the nation in both its foreign-born population and its residents who spoke a language other than English in their homes.
- Responding to the Census helps communities get the funding they need and helps businesses make data-driven decisions that grow the economy. Census data impact our daily lives, informing important decisions about services and infrastructure in your community, including health care, senior centers, jobs, political representation, roads, schools, and businesses.
- Illinois will lose an estimated \$1,400 per year for every person that does not fill out the Census.
- You can text 987-987 in English or Spanish to reach an Illinois help desk for more information about the Census and how to respond, Census jobs, and to pledge your commitment.

BE COUNTED.
Illinois depends on it.

#ILCountMeIn2020

Recommendations

- Fill out the Census form completely as soon as you receive it.
- Tell your colleagues at work, your family members, and your friends how important it is to the community's well-being to fill out the Census. Let them know that each one who doesn't participate is responsible for a loss of services for the rest of us.
- Build external partnerships with community anchors (such as schools, churches, and community centers) and ask those in charge there to have informational events about the importance of participating.
- Make a list of events from now to Census Day, April 1, that can be used to educate target populations. Share this material at these events.
- Host your own Census outreach party, such as a Bingo/Lotería night.
- Post this information to your Facebook page and/or the Facebook pages of your community groups.
- Check your local libraries to see if they have people on staff who are trained to help fill out the online form.
- Ask your children's teachers if they could plan a poster contest or school activity about the importance of the Census.
- Make copies of this material and ask your neighborhood stores to post one in a prominent place.
- Create warm, inviting, and safe environments for which to discuss the importance of the Census.

Strength In Numbers

This is #2 in a series of seven informational fact sheets encouraging Latino participation in the 2020 Census. Its purpose is to ensure that all people residing in Illinois are counted so that quality programs and services continue to be available to them.

Information provided in these reports is curated from the U.S. Census Bureau, NALEO Education Fund, Child Trends, Kids Count, the Illinois Complete Count Commission, and the American Library Association.

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For further information, visit
www.latinopolicyforum.org
www.ilcountmein2020.org
www.census.gov

