



## California Complete Count - Census 2020



- **Why Is It Important for Tribal Community Members to Respond to the 2020 Census?**
- **What is the State Doing to Support a Complete and Accurate Count in 2020?**
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### **Why Is It Important for Tribal Community Members to Respond to the 2020 Census?**

The information collected by the Census is an important tool for federal and tribal decision-making.

The U.S. Constitution requires a Census every 10 years to determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. The next enumeration will be April 1, 2020, and will be the first to rely heavily on online responses.

A primary and perpetual problem facing the U.S. Census Bureau is the undercount of certain population groups. Historically, Native Americans are one of the most undercounted groups of any population in the U.S. Census, and California is home to the largest percentage of Census respondents who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native. Other undercounted communities include foreign-born residents, undocumented residents, non-white residents, renters, and children under five years old, especially those younger than one-year-old.

Census data also help guide how billions of dollars in federal, state, and tribal funding are distributed. Accurate census data leads to fairer allocations of funds that support tribal programs in meeting community member needs. Census data help tribal leaders understand what their communities need. Many tribal communities use Census information to attract new business and plan for growth. However, if some segments of the Tribal population do not respond to the Census, the California's Native American population could be underrepresented. An accurate count of Native Americans in California means fair access to resources and fair representation.



Fact: Federal funding for Native American schools and education programs, workforce programs, health programs, housing programs, water and sewage projects, roads and economic development are based on data collected by the Census Bureau every ten years.

## What is the State Doing to Support a Complete and Accurate Count?

A complete and accurate count of California's population, including its diverse Native American communities, is essential to the State. More than 70 federal programs that benefit California, including education, health, and human services, use Census numbers as part of their funding formulas.



Governor Brown issued an Executive Order (B-49-18) describing California's Census 2020 initiative. The State's initial outreach strategy in 2018 includes three regional Tribal Consultations to share information and hear from California Native American Tribes about how the State can collaborate with tribes in its Census outreach, education, and resource-deployment strategies to best serve tribal communities.

Additionally, in support of the overall Census Outreach Strategy, the Governor created an advisory committee, the California Complete Count Committee. The California Complete Count Committee is a panel of community leaders from across the State working to implement strategies that will increase the count of all Californians, especially those that are hard to count.



## How is Personal Information Protected?

The Census Bureau respects the privacy of people who answer the Census and is bound by strict confidentiality requirements. The Census Bureau cannot share the answers it receives with anyone, including welfare agencies, U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (formerly known as the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service), the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, tribal officials, tribal courts, tribal police, or the military. Census employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect all information that could identify individuals. Anyone who breaks this law can receive up to five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

The Census Bureau also uses technology to protect your information through many security measures, including electronic barriers and encryption devices. Data from an individual are combined with other data to produce the statistical summaries that are published. The Census Bureau does not produce data that can identify any individual.

**Mission: Ensure that Californians get their fair share of federal resources and Congressional representation by encouraging the full participation of all Californians in Census 2020**



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