

CENSUS 2020: WHAT TO EXPECT AT SERVICE-BASED LOCATIONS



What is Service Based Enumeration?

Service Based Enumeration provides an opportunity for people without conventional housing or people experiencing homelessness to be included in the Census by counting them at places where they receive services or at outdoor locations such as encampments.

What has Changed Due to COVID-19?

In light of the on-going efforts to address COVID-19, the U.S. Census Bureau has announced updated procedures and a new timeline to count people experiencing homelessness. Census staff will now be collecting in-person responses from people experiencing homelessness between September 22-24. Shelters have the option of submitting a paper roster in lieu of an in-person visit. Census staff will follow local public health guidance regarding the use of personal protective equipment and social distancing.

Where, When, and How will People be Counted?

Area Census Office staff will contact service-based locations beginning mid-August to determine an enumeration method and schedule appointments between September 22-24.

Service Location Type	Date	Count Methods
Emergency and Transitional Shelters <i>with sleeping facilities.</i> <i>Examples: cold weather shelters, shelters for children, churches, missions, COVID-19 temporary hotel and motel shelters</i>	September 22-24	Paper Listing: Shelters have the option of providing Census staff with a paper listing of Census response data for each person staying at the facility. In-Person Interview: Using a paper questionnaire, Census staff will interview each person staying at the facility on Census Day. Each interview takes about 10 minutes.
Soup Kitchens, Food Banks, and Mobile Food Vans/Service Sites <i>that provide meals and services primarily to people who may be experiencing homelessness</i>	September 22-24	In-Person Interview: Using a paper questionnaire, Census staff will interview each person served a meal on Census Day. Each interview takes about 10 minutes.
Targeted Non-Sheltered Outdoor Locations <i>where people experiencing homelessness live.</i> <i>Examples: encampments, parks, and under highways.</i>	Starting the night of September 23 and throughout the day of September 24	In-Person Interview: Using a paper questionnaire, Census staff will interview each person at that location on Census Day. Each interview takes about 10 minutes.



SERVICE-BASED LOCATIONS FAQS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

Why is the Census Important?

Every 10 years, the Census is required to count every single person in the United States, but people without conventional housing and people experiencing homelessness are at risk of not being counted. This is important because data gathered from the Census is used to determine the distribution of billions of dollars in funding each year, including *affordable housing, food assistance programs, shelters, and other homeless services.*

How can Service-Based Locations Prepare?

- ✓ Make sure that your agency has been in contact with Census staff to reschedule enumeration and let them know about any changes to your operation due to COVID-19.
- ✓ Increase awareness of the Census among clients and let them know that Census staff will follow the latest local public health guidance regarding the use of personal protective equipment and social distancing.
- ✓ Make sure your team knows logistics in advance of the day of your appointment, including the date and time Census staff are expected to arrive.
- ✓ If your site will host in-person interviews, designate space where people at your site can answer Census questions in a confidential setting that allows for social distancing.
- ✓ Consider providing incentives for clients to participate in the Census, such as giftcards.
- ✓ Post a notice reminding clients, staff, volunteers, and community members of when the Census is coming. Sample posters in English and Spanish are available online at <https://2020census.gov/en/conducting-the-count/gq/sbe.html>.

What Questions are Asked on the Census?

The Census only asks 9 simple questions including your name, birthdate and age, residence, sex, and race. There are **NO** questions about citizenship or immigration status. Each interview only takes about 10 minutes.

How are People Experiencing Homelessness Counted?

People counted at service-based locations should report the residence where they live and sleep most of the time. If they do not have a usual home elsewhere, they are counted at the service-based location where they are located when Census staff come to enumerate on September 22-24. People residing in outdoor locations such as encampments may be counted at the outdoor location where they are located on September 23-24.

In addition to service-based and outdoor locations, people experiencing homelessness can respond to the Census online at My2020Census.gov or by phone at 1-844-330-2020.

How Safe and Confidential are Census Answers?

All personal information is kept confidential, and **no governmental agency can access responses** – not law enforcement, ICE, or local government offices. The Census Bureau is bound by federal law to protect this information, and the data is used only for statistical purposes.