



# 2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

## *What Faith-Based Organizations Need to Know*

In 2010, the U.S. census will define who we are as a nation. Taken every 10 years, the census affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. As a faith-based organization, you are dedicated to serving the best interests of your community. Many community members—including those who are isolated by language or geography—look to their faith-based leaders as trusted sources of information. You can partner with the U.S. Census Bureau to convey the importance of participating in the next census and to ensure no one is left uncoun-**ted. Achieving a complete and accurate 2010 Census is in our hands.**

### **The Census: A Snapshot**

- ▲ The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years.
- ▲ The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States: in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.
- ▲ The 2010 Census will create hundreds of thousands of temporary jobs across the nation.

### **It's in Our Hands: Your Participation in the 2010 Census Matters**

- ▲ Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal funds are awarded to states and communities based on census data. That's more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period.
- ▲ Census data help faith-based groups plan for new buildings and programs and guide local decision-makers in important community planning efforts, including where to build new roads, hospitals and schools.
- ▲ Census data affect your voice in Congress by determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

### **Completing the 2010 Census Questionnaire: Simple and Safe**

- ▲ The 2010 Census questionnaire asks only a few simple questions of each person—name, relationship, gender, age and date of birth, race, and whether the respondent owns or rents his or her home. This simple, short questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete and return by mail.
- ▲ The Census Bureau does not release or share information that identifies individual respondents or their household for 72 years.

[www.census.gov/2010census](http://www.census.gov/2010census)



## 2010 CENSUS: *Frequently Asked Questions*

### Why should members of faith-based organizations participate in the 2010 Census?

Census data shape the future of your community and define your voice in Congress.

- ▲ Census information is used to allocate billions of dollars in government funding for important community facilities that your congregation relies upon, such as schools, roads, hospitals, child-care centers and more.
- ▲ Congregations utilize census data as a source of key statistical information needed to determine locations for new facilities and to secure faith-based grants.
- ▲ The census determines how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the boundaries of legislative districts.

### How will the 2010 Census differ from previous census efforts?

In the last census, one in six households received a long questionnaire asking for detailed socioeconomic information. In 2010, every residence will receive a short questionnaire that is simple and fast to complete and return. More detailed information will be collected annually from a small percentage of the population through the American Community Survey.

### Will the information the Census Bureau collects remain confidential?

Yes. Every Census Bureau worker takes an oath for life to protect the confidentiality of census responses. Violation would result in a jail term of up to five years and/or fine of up to \$250,000. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's answers with anyone, including welfare and immigration agencies.

### Why are faith-based organizations important to the 2010 Census campaign?

More than 140,000 organizations supported Census 2000, including faith-based organizations, state and local governments, community-based organizations, schools, media, businesses and others. Through partnerships, the Census Bureau has a far greater chance to reach every U.S. resident than by attempting this monumental task alone. Communities look to their faith-based leaders, youth groups and lay ministries for guidance and trusted information. You can include census information in newsletters, bulletins and mailings, help recruit members of your community for census jobs and provide space for census activities.

### 2010 Census Timeline: Key Dates

<b>Fall 2008</b>	Recruitment begins for local census jobs for early census operations.
<b>Spring 2009</b>	Census employees go door-to-door to update address list nationwide.
<b>Fall 2009</b>	Recruitment begins for census takers needed for peak workload in 2010.
<b>February - March 2010</b>	Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.
<b>April 1, 2010</b>	Census Day
<b>April - July 2010</b>	Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.
<b>December 2010</b>	By law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to President for apportionment.
<b>March 2011</b>	By law, Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

For more information about the 2010 Census, please go to [www.census.gov/2010census](http://www.census.gov/2010census).