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Planning for the 2020 Census: Counting New Yorkers Where They Live

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Since 1790, the United States has conducted a census of the population every ten years, as required by the U.S. Constitution. The upcoming 2020 census will be the nation's 24th. The goal of the Decennial Census is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. This means that the Census is not just about counting people, it's about counting people where they live.

This has important implications for legislative representation, funding, program planning and delivery, etc. "Without the where, it's all merely numbers." Geography provides meaning and context to statistical data.

In order to ensure a successful Census, coordinated efforts across the nation will include working with communities to review geographic boundaries, update address files, and improve the overall response rate through various promotional activities. The ability to reach every household in an efficient manner relies heavily on accurate local address lists, addresses which correspond to

a specific geographic location which can then be tabulated for various levels of geography (county, village, school district, congressional district, etc).

Local governments maintain a lot of the data needed by the Census Bureau to count people where they live. The Census Bureau assists local governments by reviewing and updating geographic data. The annual Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) focuses on geographic boundaries and the Local Update Census Addresses (LUCA) focuses on address lists. The LUCA operation is the only opportunity for tribal, state and local governments to review and comment on their jurisdiction's residential address lists before the 2020 Census. It is in local



governments' best interest to participate in these training and promotion activities to ensure fair funding allocations and political representation, and to help communities plan for future needs with accurate population counts.

2020 Census



330+
million
people



140+
million
households



less than
9 months
to count every person,
tabulate data, and produce
the results



1 chance
to succeed

Resources

Census Bureau 2020 Census: <https://www.census.gov/2020census>

Cornell Program on Applied Demographics, Census 2020 Overview of Census related activities important for local communities: <https://pad.human.cornell.edu/census2020/index.cfm>

Boundary and annexation survey: <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas.html>

Local Update Census Addresses: <http://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/luca.html>



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