



# Updated MAY 20, 2020 Census During COVID-19 Pandemic NATIVE FACT SHEET

## CENSUS SELF-RESPONSE DEADLINE | October 31, 2020

### Key Messages | May 20, 2020

- The 2020 Census is still happening now.
- The new self-response time deadline is October 31.
- We understand that our rural tribal communities are heavily impacted by COVID-19 and have different needs from community-to-community.
- The California Complete Count Office has the following recommendations to ensure a Native Complete Count in the 2020 Census, while also respecting the inherent sovereign rights of tribes to make the best decisions for your communities.

*U.S. Census Bureau Recommendations for Native communities regarding Census self-response during COVID-19*

***Please wait to respond until you receive your Census materials.\****

In your tribal area, the best way to respond is with the unique Census ID we provide. When you receive your materials, you can choose to:

- Complete and mail back the enclosed paper questionnaire.
- Call to respond using your Census ID.
- Respond online using your Census ID.

### General information & Troubleshooting Guidelines

#### *Head of Household Response Issue in Online Form*

If filling out the form online, make sure that when you select Head of Household as a American Indian/Alaska Native household that it does not switch the head of household when you respond to the question "Who is responsible for paying the rent/mortgage?"

#### *Tribal Government Self-Enumeration Clarification*

The independent tribal government self-enumeration option presented in April is specific to a tribal government comparative numbers and DOES NOT get included in the 2020 Census report or coded numbers.

#### *Data Security Update on Census Forms Completed Online without Unique ID*

The data from those who have completed the Census online without the unique user ID still remains in the Census data base and will be counted as demographic data. The U.S. Census Bureau is working to match those completed questionnaires with the correct addresses. But a Census enumerator might still visit once Update Leave commences later this year.

*\* Please check with your tribe and/or local Complete Count Committee for specific tribal or local recommendations.*



# NATIVE PEOPLE COUNT CALIFORNIA

## Census During COVID-19 NATIVE FACT SHEET

### What is Census?

Every 10 years, the United States counts everyone living in the country on April 1. Our tribes do not share enrollment numbers with the government, so it is important for all California Tribal Nations and Native communities to participate in Census 2020.

### Why is Census important for California Tribal Nations and Native Communities?

Census 2020 is an opportunity to **provide a better future for our communities and future generations**. Your responses to Census 2020 can help **shape how billions of dollars in federal funds are distributed** each year for programs and grants in Native communities.

An accurate count for California Tribal Nations and Native communities means **fair access to resources** and fair representation in local, state, and federal elected offices. **The Native Vote has increasingly become a "swing vote" in several states, and answering the Census 2020 ensures that your vote may make a difference.**

There are **more than 70 programs that benefit the State of California** that use Census numbers to allocate funding including education, health, and human services **that directly impact California's Tribal Nations and Native communities.**

### UPDATED TIMELINE



### What is Update Leave?

As many of our Tribal Nations and Native communities live in rural areas without traditional addresses. The U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) employs Census takers who visit our communities to "Update" addresses and "Leave" a Census packet. During COVID-19, the USCB is prioritizing the health a safety of their employees and our communities. Update Leave is scheduled to commence under the guidelines of each state and Tribal Nation's guidance. In addition, USCB employees will be outfitted with personal protective equipment, and will not be actively engaging in-person, but will be leaving Census packets for completion instead at front doors.