



# SERVICE BASED LOCATIONS: WHAT TO EXPECT ON CENSUS DAY

## 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.

## Where, When, and How will People be Counted?

In advance of Census Day, in February and early March, Census workers will connect with service-based locations to decide on a date, time, and method for counting.<sup>1</sup> Generally:

	Where	When		How
	Service Location Type	Date	Time	Count Methods
 	<b>Emergency and Transitional Shelters</b> <i>with sleeping facilities.</i>  <i>Examples: cold weather shelters, shelters for children, churches, missions, hotels, motels</i>	Monday, March 30	After doors close for the evening	<b>Paper Listing:</b> Shelters have the option of providing the Census with a paper listing of Census response data for each person staying at the facility.  <b>In-Person Interview:</b> Using a paper questionnaire, Census representatives will interview each person staying at the facility on Census Day. Each interview takes about 10 minutes.
 	<b>Soup Kitchens and Mobile Food Vans and Hygiene Stations</b> that provide meals and services primarily to people who may be experiencing homelessness	Tuesday, March 31	Before the meal or service	<b>In-Person Interview:</b> Using a paper questionnaire, Census representatives will interview each person served a meal on Census Day. Each interview takes about 10 minutes.
 	<b>Targeted Non-Sheltered Outdoor Locations</b> where people experiencing homelessness live.  <i>Examples: encampments, parks, bus stops, under highways</i>	Wednesday, April 1	After midnight and into the morning	<b>In-Person Interview:</b> Using a paper questionnaire, Census representatives will interview each person at that location on Census Day. Each interview takes about 10 minutes.

<sup>1</sup> If a Census worker has not reached out to your organization to schedule an enumeration appointment by March 6<sup>th</sup>, or for additional questions and information please contact [census2020@homebaseccc.org](mailto:census2020@homebaseccc.org).



# SERVICE BASED LOCATIONS: CENSUS FAQ

## 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 being undercounted. 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?

- ✓ Increase awareness of the Census among clients and let them know it's coming, it's important, and it's quick, simple, and confidential.
- ✓ Make sure your team knows the logistics in advance of the day, including the date and time Census workers are expected to arrive.<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ If your site will host in-person interviews, designate space where people at your site can answer Census questions in a confidential setting.
- ✓ Consider providing incentives for clients to participate in the Census to help ensure everyone is counted.
- ✓ 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 can be counted through Service-Based Enumeration at service sites and pre-identified outdoor locations on March 30, March 31, and April 1, 2020.

In addition to service-based locations, people experiencing homelessness can respond to the Census online at [my2020Census.gov](https://my2020Census.gov), through the phone, or at one of many Questionnaire Assistance Centers located at common publicly accessible spaces, such as libraries and community centers. If someone does not have a fixed address, they can use the address of where they are sleeping the day they are counted or can describe where they are staying (i.e., under highway, at a park) and include the town/city and state in the address section.

## How Safe and Confidential are Census Answers?

Your personal information is kept confidential, and **no governmental agency can access your response** – not law enforcement, ICE, or other service providers, cities and counties. The Census Bureau is bound by federal law to protect your information, and your data is used only for statistical purposes.

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