

NY Counts 2020 Census Week of Action- The Final Count-up! How to Get Out the Count as a House of Worship

The 2020 Census is coming to an end soon and we need YOU to help us get out the count! We want ALL New Yorkers counted. Let's take these efforts statewide. Let's have every corner of NYS blanketed with a range of final get out the count activities. These ten days of action will encourage every resident of the Empire State to self-respond and bridge that 3.5% gap between NY's self-response rate and the national self-response rate.

We have until the end of this month to get our community counted! We must make sure New York receives the funding and political representation it deserves for the next TEN years! See below easy-lift ideas you can take to help us secure a fair count in the next 10 days.

Houses of Worship	
"I have no time" ideas	
Post about the census on all social media channels	<p>Need some graphics? Click here for an assortment of different graphics in various languages.</p> <p>Find faith specific resources here.</p> <p>Don't forget to direct people to the self-response portal, 2020census.gov, with each post.</p>
If operating in person, hang up a poster post a yard sign at your location	<p>Find ready-to-print posters here and even more here</p> <p>Additionally, find flyers in an assortment of languages here, census-themed coloring sheets here, a half-sheet flyer that lets them know how to fill it out, and a flyer that explains how to identify a Census taker.</p> <p>And last, don't forget about any electric billboard or screens near you! Make sure those have a census message too.</p>
Give your staff time to complete the census	Give your staff 10-15 minutes to complete the census on behalf of their family. Or to text 5 friends or family members reminders to complete the census at 2020census.gov .
Meeting virtually? Update your Zoom background with a census message	Click here for a NY Counts 2020 Zoom Background.

“I can spare an hour or two” Ideas

<p>Send an email blast to your network or include a census message in newsletter you send</p>	<p>Include a paragraph explaining why the Census is important to your organization or community in your monthly newsletter or dedicated email blasts. Get started with this toolkit.</p> <p>Need to refine your census messaging? Click here for a quick one-pager with some top-line 2020 Census messaging guidance and quick talking points when speaking about the 2020 Census.</p>
<p>Where appropriate, train front line staff to answer basic questions.</p>	<p>Encourage staff to bring up the Census as part of regular conversations with your community. These Census talking points and Census fact sheets are perfect for prepping them for such conversations.</p>
<p>Educate your staff and volunteers.</p>	<p>Add a discussion about the importance of the 2020 Census to the agenda of your next meeting or gathering.</p>
<p>Record a video in a non-English language about the census and share it</p>	<p>Have a special language skill you provide to your community? Use that skill! See here from an example message from Cardi B in Spanish!</p>
<p>Host a community radio program? Include a census radio spot.</p>	<p>Does your House of Worship have a community radio program or podcast? Include a census message in your next broadcast. Find sample PSA scripts here.</p>

“I have time, let’s do this!” Ideas

<p>Host a worship service centered around the census</p>	<p>Dedicate a service or part of your service to the importance of the census. Find sample scripture that discusses census with this toolkit here.</p>
<p>If operating in-person, host a census pop up at your location.</p>	<p>Are your offices open to the public? Make computers or tablets available for participants to fill out the 2020 Census during regularly scheduled service hours. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, be sure to adhere to state and municipality guidelines, including proper sanitation procedures. See</p>

	<p>here for more information on how to host this event.</p>
Host a census drive-through	<p>Not operating in person but still like the idea of a census pop-up? Perhaps a census drive-through is the event for you. See this guide for how to host a census pop-up event- just make it a drive through instead!</p> <p>See how a CBO in Brooklyn did it here.</p>
Host a mini-phone bank	<p>Make sure the people you serve have been counted! Gather volunteers to make calls to any phone lists you have with a quick reminder to complete the census.</p> <p>Find a sample script here.</p>
Ask your spiritual leader to write an op-ed about the census	<p>See this op-ed from Rev. Eddie Anderson.</p>
Host a Census DJ night or Census Party on Zoom or FB/IG Live	<p>Get your community together virtually and plan a fun night of music over FB/IG Live or Zoom. Add in a DJ for extra fun! See here for how this event could look.</p>
Hosting a Census Lotería or Bingo night on Zoom or FB Live	<p>Get your community together virtually and plan a fun game night over FB/IG Live or Zoom. Find a census lotería game board here. And see an example of this event here.</p>
Coordinate a chalk mural	<p>Get creative! Get a small group of volunteers together to do some chalk art outside your location or a local grocery store with a message about the census. See examples here.</p>
Host a Census DJ night or Census Party on Zoom or FB/IG Live	<p>Get your community together virtually and plan a fun night of music over FB/IG Live or Zoom. Add in a DJ for extra fun! See here for how this event could look.</p>
Host a census TikTok or Meme competition	<p>Have a youth group? Host a census TikTok or Meme competition. See how University of Nebraska Omaha did it here.</p>

<p>Poster Canvass and Literature Drop</p>	<p>Gather a small group of volunteers to hang up posters at various locations around your community.</p> <p>You can target your message and perhaps change the languages based on the area where you chose to distribute your materials. Reach out to small businesses and see if they'd be willing to hang up a poster or have literature available in a common area (such as a waiting room).</p> <p>Find ready-to-print posters here and even more here</p> <p>Additionally, find flyers in an assortment of languages here, census-themed coloring sheets here, a half-sheet flyer that lets them know how to fill it out, and a flyer that explains how to identify a Census taker.</p> <p>And last, don't forget about any electric billboard or screens near you! Make sure those have a census message too.</p>
<p>Utilize the USPS Every Door Direct Mail to mail a census postcard to an entire census tract.</p>	<p>USPS Every Door Direct Mail Program allows you to send a postcard or brochure to every address in a specific zipcode. Click here for information on pricing and to learn more.</p> <p>Click here for a sample postcard ready to send.</p>
<p>Last but not least</p>	
<p>Spread the word through other networks</p>	<p>Know a trusted messenger in your network that might not work in your office? Perhaps a small business owner, teacher, or elected official? Text or email them asking them to talk about the census to their network. See an example friend/family email on page 9 of this toolkit here.</p>