

# WHY THE CENSUS IS IMPORTANT TO INDIAN COUNTRY

## Did you know...

- Census data is the basis for the allocation of more than \$675 billion annually, of which \$1 billion is dedicated to Indian Country. These funds are used to build tribal housing and make improvements, maintain and construct roads, and provide employment and training programs.
- American Indian and Alaska Natives were not counted in the first six censuses from 1790 through 1850. Since that time, they have been at risk for undercounts for various reasons, including: miscategorizing mixed race American Indians, language barriers, resistance to federal government activities, and lack of culturally knowledgeable Census takers.<sup>1</sup>
- Census answers are private and confidential. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's or a household's answers with any person or agency, e.g. not the IRS, not law enforcement entities, nor tribal housing authorities.
- In recent censuses, American Indians and Alaska Natives living on reservations have experienced some of the highest estimated net undercounts of any demographic group in the U.S., such as 4.88% in the 2010 Census.

## Why should you be counted in the 2020 Census?

**Power:** In the same way that Native people have begun to flex our muscles at the polls through Native Vote, it is time for tribal citizens to be fully counted in the 2020 Census. An accurate count of American Indians and Alaska Natives is necessary for the upcoming state redistricting processes. The same skills and tools that tribes used in recent Native Vote campaigns are valuable to general census outreach and formal Indian Country Counts efforts.

**Funding and Community Resources:** Being counted as Native will directly benefit you, your family, and your tribal community.

<https://www.census.gov/srd/papers/pdf/ev90-19.pdf>

