

2010 Census: Leader messages

The following messages can be shared during regularly scheduled announcements in the weeks leading up to Census Day on April 1, 2010, to educate and encourage your faith-based community members to complete and mail back their 2010 Census forms. Corresponding drop-in announcements are included in this packet and both are available to download at "Partner With Us" at 2010census.gov.

Week 1: About the census

In March 2010, more than 130 million addresses across the nation will receive a 2010 Census form. The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years for the purpose of reapportioning the U.S. House of Representatives. Every person living in the United States must be counted. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and noncitizens. Additionally, census data directly affect how more than \$400 billion per year in federal funding is distributed to state, local and tribal governments. Please complete and mail back your form and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to do the same. For more information, visit 2010census.gov.

Week 2: Benefits of the census

As members of this faith-based community and the communities in which we live and work, we have a lot at stake going into the 2010 Census. Every year, the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to state, local and tribal governments based on census data. Our organization can use the information to apply for grants and determine locations for new facilities. By completing and returning your census form, you also help guide funding decisions for our schools, hospitals and child-care centers, as well as affect our voice in Congress. The data collected are used to determine voting districts for all levels of city, state and nationally elected offices. Play a role in important decisions that government leaders will make in the next 10 years. Please complete and mail back your form and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to do the same. For more information, visit 2010census.gov.

Week 3: Completing the form

By now, most of you have probably received your 2010 Census form. One of the shortest census forms in history, the 2010 Census form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. It's easy, important and safe, and your participation is vital. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share an individual's personal information with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. Please complete and mail back your census form and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to do the same. For more information, visit 2010census.gov.



Week 4: Remember the 2010 Census

(service before Census Day, April 1, 2010)

If you haven't completed and mailed back your census form, we encourage you to do so. Census data will have an important impact on our community. Data will influence grant opportunities for our faith community and guide decisions about where to build new roads, schools, hospitals and more. Every person and every census form matters. Help to ensure our organization and our community are eligible for the funding they need for a bright future. Please complete and mail back your census form and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to do the same. For more information, visit 2010census.gov.

Week 5: Thank you

(service following Census Day, April 1, 2010)

Today we want to thank everyone who completed and mailed back their 2010 Census form. Your response provides important information that will be used to make decisions that affect us all. For those who haven't yet done so, we encourage you to complete the process this week. Households that do not respond may receive a replacement form in early April 2010. Census workers will visit households that do not return their form to take a count in person. Please cooperate with census workers to ensure a complete and accurate census count. For more information, visit 2010census.gov.

For more information about the 2010 Census, go to 2010census.gov.