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Investing in Tribal Communities for Census 2020

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California’s Tribal communities are among the least likely to respond to the decennial Census. To address this concern, the California Complete Count – Census 2020 Office (Census Office) has woven outreach to Native American and Tribal populations throughout each of its funding efforts including:

**Hiring an Dedicated Tribal Affairs Specialist**
Kayla Olvera Hilario (Ione Band of Miwok Indians) was confirmed by the California State Senate in January 2020 for the role of Tribal Affairs Specialist at the California Complete Count – Census 2020 (Census Office).

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<th>Holistic Outreach</th>
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<td>Outreach is woven throughout the California Complete Count - Census 2020 Office (Census Office) funding efforts for Native American and Tribal populations.</td>
<td>California is home to the largest percentage of Census respondents who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native.</td>
<td>Native American Tribes and Tribal-serving organizations and agencies have participated in multiple past Census outreach and engagement efforts.</td>
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**TRIBAL FUNDING**
Census 2020 marks the largest State of California commitment to-date toward the goal of increasing Tribal participation in the Census. An initial $316,500 was allocated to Tribes based on a minimum of 25 Housing Units per reservation, $400,000 each to Statewide contractors, the California Indian Manpower Consortium and the California Native Vote Project, and an additional $2 million from the State’s General Fund.

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Native People Count California (Native People Count CA) is the official California Complete Count – Census 2020 Tribal Media Outreach campaign.

Launched in January 2020 – the Native People Count CA campaign is a collaboration between Governor’s Office of the Tribal Advisor, the California Complete Count - Census 2020 office, and Tribal Media Outreach Partners NUNA Consulting Group, LLC, California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc. (CIMC), and the California Native Vote Project (CANVP).

Native People Count CA was created with the belief that 2020 Census is an integral piece to upholding the fiduciary responsibility by the United States federal government to Tribes and its delegated authority to state and local governments. Critical to infrastructure, health care, justice, law enforcement, emergency services, nutrition, and education, the U.S. Census provides the baseline for appropriated funds over the next ten years for tribal governments across the country and right here in the State of California. Native People Count CA takes its responsibility seriously in its efforts to provide the best and most culturally relevant, tribal-specific materials, resources, and assistance to ensure a Complete Count for California Tribes and the American Indian and Alaska Native people.
Census:
Mandated by the United States Constitution, the U.S. Census is a survey conducted by the U.S. government every 10 years to count the current population of the country.

Enumerate / Enumeration / Enumerating:
The act of counting a number of people or items one by one. “The U.S. Census began enumerating in Alaska on January 21, 2020.”

Hard-to-Count Communities:
Hard-to-Count Communities are those that the Census Bureau have determined through research which populations are missed at higher rates in the Census. American Indians and Alaska Natives are considered at Hard-to-Count (HTC) communities.

Redistricting:
After each Census, stat officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts to account for population shifts.

Decennial:
Occurring or lasting for a period of 10 years. “The decennial census has been conducted in years ending in ‘0’.”
What is Census?

**WHEN** The United States Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. Starting in 1790, the very first census was implemented and has continued over the last 230 years. Census Day 2020 is April 1, 2020.

**WHO** The Census counts every person in every household living in the United States once, and only once in the right place or location.

**IMPACT** Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to determine representation of seats in Congress. After each decade’s census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

In total, there is about **$675 billion** in federal funds distribution, grants and support to states, counties, and communities that is based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs. Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness and businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores that create jobs.

**HOW** For the first time in history, the Census 2020 Questionnaire can be completed using one of the following three methods:

- **ONLINE** Internet Self-Response.
- **PHONE** Telephone Census questionnaire assistance.
- **PAPER** Paper Census questionnaire option that is sent by mail.

13 Languages will be supported on (Internet & Phone). *Note: American Indian / Native Alaskan Languages are not included in the 13 languages.*

**SECURITY** Your information is secure. By law (Title 13, U.S. Code), the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share an individual’s answers with anyone or allow it to be used to determine their eligibility for government benefits.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau Census 101: What You Need To Know, California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc. Native People Count Campaign
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.

DID YOU KNOW?

$1 BILLION

Census data is the basis for over $1 billion ANNUALLY that flows through Indian Country. That is $10 billion dollars of federal funding for American Indians / Alaska Natives until the NEXT decennial Census.

4.9% UNDERCOUNTED

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that American Indians / Alaska Natives living on reservations or in Native villages were undercounted by nearly five percent. Which is more than double the undercount rate of the next closest population group.

NOT COUNTED UNTIL 1890

American Indians / Alaska Natives were generally not counted until 1890 and substantially undercounted until 1980 when U.S. residents were allowed to indicate their own race.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Census data is private and confidential. Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about individuals, households, or businesses, even to law enforcement agencies.

10 MINUTES

The Census questionnaire should only take about 10 minutes to complete.

Sources: NCAI Indian Country Counts; U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census and Confidentiality D-1264; U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Snapshot — American Indian/Alaska Native; California Complete Count - Census 2020 Tribal Community One-Pager.
Census Data Directly Impacts Tribal Nations and Native Communities Federally Funded Programs including:

- Medicaid / Medicare / Medi-Cal
- Federal Direct Student Loans
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Highway Planning and Construction
- Federal Pell Grant Program
- Section 8 Housing Vouchers
- Title 1 Grants to Local Education Agencies
- Head Start Program
- Native American Employment and Training
- Indian Health Service (IHS)
- Urban Indian Health Program
- Special Programs for the Aging Title VI, Part A
- Indian Housing Block Grants
- Indian Reservation Roads Program
- Tribal Transportation Program
- Veterans Affairs, and more.

HOW DO I GET COUNTED AS AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE IN CENSUS 2020?

Saying that you’re American Indian or Alaska Native on the Census 2020 form is a matter of self-identification. No proof is required.

No one will ask you to show a tribal enrollment card or a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB).

SPECIAL NOTE: The only way to ensure that you are included in all the Census counts as AI/AN is to check just that ONE box on the form.

Sources: NCAI Indian Country Counts; U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census and Confidentiality D-1264; U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Snapshot —American Indian/Alaska Native; California Complete Count - Census 2020 Tribal Community One-Pager
Complete Count of Tribal Nations & Native Communities

Tribal Nations and States use Funds to Provide, Programs, Services, & Resources Directly to Tribes and Community Members

Federal Agencies Provide Resources to Tribal Nations, Native Communities, and States Based on Budgets

Federal Government Builds Budgets Based on Census Data

Complete Count Sent to Federal Government

Congress builds budgets based on census data, and federal agencies provide resources to tribal nations, native communities, and states based on these budgets. Tribal nations and states use the funds to provide programs, services, and resources directly to their communities.
BE COUNTED

Steps to make sure to be counted as an American Indian or Alaska Native on the Census 2020 questionnaire!

To be counted as an AI/AN household depends entirely on the race of “Person 1” - the first person listed on the Census 2020 questionnaire. If Person 1 says that he or she is AI/AN, then the household is counted as having an AI/AN household.

Check the box on Question 9 “What is Person 1’s Race?” to indicate that you are American Indian or Alaska Native on the Census 2020 questionnaire. Checking the box is a matter of self-identification. No proof is required. No one will ask you to show a tribal enrollment card or a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB).

Make sure to write in the full name of your enrolled or principal tribe(s) if applicable, even if it takes up more than the space provided.

Please list the full name of your Tribe, Band, or Rancheria to ensure that you are accurately counted.

Option to check multiple race boxes for Census 2020

The option to check off multiple races means that an AI/AN person can identify as both Native and as a member of another race, such as white, Black, or Asian.

If you check the box for AI/AN, and do not check other boxes on the race question, you will be counted in the “American Indian Alone” category in analyses of Census data.

If you check the box for American Indian or Alaska Native and check one or more races, you will be counted in the “American Indian Alone or in Combination” category in analyses of Census data.

More Information


Important Note: Tribal enrollment, and the right to determine the citizenship or membership of a tribe, is a fundamental right of tribal sovereignty and is not determined by the U.S. Census Bureau.
Contact Information

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  310-365-5272

- Native People Count California Campaign
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Additional Resources

**Partner Organizations**

- **California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc.**

- Native People Count: http://www.cimcinc.org/
  NativePeopleCount.html

- **California Complete Count - Census 2020**
  Native American and Tribal Governments Page: https://census.ca.gov/tribal/

- Tribal Government Partners: https://census.ca.gov/resource/tribal_gov/

- **National Congress of American Indians / Indian Country Counts**

  Materials and resources used with permission granted by the National Congress of American Indians Fund and its Indian Country Counts Campaign. For more information, visit www.indiancountrycounts.org.

- Indian Country Counts Website: http://indiancountrycounts.org/


- **U.S. Census Bureau**


  U.S. Census 2020 National Congress of American Indians Representatives Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKBmHSNvNng&feature=emb_logo


- **The Leadership Conference Education Fund**

- TABLE 1a: States Ranked by Number of American Indian/Alaska Natives (race alone or in combination*) living in Hard-to-Count (HTC) Census Tracts**: http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/census/2020/Table1a-States-Number-AIAN-HTC.pdf

- TABLE 1b: States Ranked by Percent of American Indian/Alaska Natives (race alone or in combination*) living in Hard-to-Count (HTC) Census Tracts**: http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/census/2020/Table1b-States-Percent-AIAN-HTC.pdf

- TABLE 2a: 100 Largest Places Ranked by Number of American Indian/Alaska Natives (race alone or in combination*) living in Hard-to-Count (HTC) Census Tracts**: http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/census/2020/Table2a-100-Largest-Places-Number-AIAN-HTC.pdf