## Time is running out. Respond now. Shape your future START HERE > 2020

## 2020 CENSUS Press Release

On August 8, the U.S. Census Bureau **announced that both self-response and field data collection will end by September 30.** This is a significant change from the Census Bureau's April 2020 announcement where the agency stated it would need at least until October 31, 2020 to finish the count, and requested that Congress provide a four-month extension because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This new deadline of September 30, poses a risk for Tribal Communities who have been

impacted by COVID-19. The action by the Trump Administration show the complete disregard for Native American Indian Tribes and other Indigenous groups. Furthermore, the shortened deadline will not only affect the overall accuracy of the 2020 Census calculations, but it will impact Indigenous communities as these communities have historically been under counted compared with other populations in the United States.

On Wednesday, the National Congress of American Indians joined several other prominent Indigenous rights groups in denouncing the administration's accelerated timeline, calling it a direct threat to their well-being during a public health crisis that may have lingering effects for years. "Our tribal nations and tribal communities have been ravaged by COVID-19, and an extension of the Census enumeration period was a humane lifeline during an unprecedented global health catastrophe," the groups said in a statement. "An inaccurate Census count will decimate our ability to advocate for necessary services for our most vulnerable communities."

In the News: On September 5, a California U.S. District Judge issued a temporary restraining order preventing the Census Bureau from winding down operations until the September 17 preliminary injunction is held.

## Why Our Community NEEDS to Participate in the 2020 Census?

The census counts *all* people living in the United States. It ensures essential resources for our community, such as: access to education, childcare, affordable housing, healthcare, public transportation, road maintenance, food security, and much more. Additionally, by participating in the count, more funding can be obtained for our community.

Now is the time for our community to be fully visible and represented with the resources we are entitled to. Now is the time to take control and <u>BE COUNTED</u>. It will only take a few moments of your time and the most important aspects of the Census are identified below:

Claim your identity.

Check American Indian/Alaska Native on the Census Form

**Count All Members of Your Household** (include children under 5 Years old)

**Include** Your Tribal Affiliation

Please complete your form online, by phone, or by mail when your invitation to respond arrives.

Visit my2020census.gov to begin.

