

## PRESS RELEASE

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### NC COUNTS COALITION RESPONDS TO THE [MEMORANDUM](#) ISSUED BY THE WHITE HOUSE CALLING FOR THE EXCLUSION OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS FROM THE CENSUS

(July 22, 2020) – NC Counts Coalition released a statement from Executive Director Attorney Stacey Carless in response to the White House memorandum demanding the exclusion of undocumented immigrants in the Census:

“The [memorandum](#) issued by the White House yesterday, calling for the exclusion of undocumented immigrants from the Census count is another attempt to politicize the Census.

“[Section 2 of the 14th Amendment states](#), "Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians not taxed." Plain and simple, everyone counts.

“Currently, our nation is grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 10,000 eviction cases are currently on file in North Carolina courts; nearly 200,000 residents have signed up for SNAP in North Carolina since the pandemic began, and there could be between 100,000 to 191,500 newly uninsured North Carolinians as a result of COVID-19 job losses. Families are struggling with basic needs, and rural hospitals are barely hanging on to stay open. In North Carolina, the unemployment rate is 7.6 percent, double what it was before the pandemic. In 2016, North Carolina received more than \$23 billion in federal funding to support healthcare, food security programs such as SNAP, affordable housing assistance programs, school breakfast and lunch programs, small business loans for rural North Carolina, unemployment insurance, and more. Our state cannot afford to leave any federal funding on the table. More than ever, we need a complete and accurate count of every person living in North Carolina. This will ensure that our state has accurate data to inform decision-makers about where to place resources and services to ensure that our state has equitable access to the more than \$1.5 trillion in federal funds to support healthy and vibrant communities throughout our state for the next decade.

“We cannot allow the Census to become a political weapon for partisan politics. The Census is the most inclusive form of civic engagement in our country, and it increases equity in our communities. An attempt to prevent any persons from being counted is a direct attack on our democracy, inherently unconstitutional and quite frankly dehumanizing.

“We cannot allow the action requested in yesterday's memorandum by the White House to distract our efforts or slow our momentum. We must continue to educate, engage, and mobilize

our communities to ensure that every person is counted. Through our collective strength, NC Counts Coalition commits to achieving a complete and accurate count of North Carolina with our partners for the people of our state.”

### About the Census

The U.S. Constitution requires a Census count of every individual living in the United States every ten years and documents increases, decreases, and changes in community demographics. The statistics created are used to decide how many seats each state gets in the U.S. House of Representatives. It also determines the amount of federal funding North Carolina receives for important programs and services, including healthcare, food assistance, education, transportation, housing, community development, families and more.

The Census directly affects the allocation of \$23.8 billion annually in federal resources to North Carolina. Each person counted represents about \$16,000 for our state over a 10-year period. Additionally, it provides key decision-makers with the information they need to ensure that government resources are directed strategically to the state’s communities. Also, the Census ensures that communities are appropriately represented in the statehouse and in Congress. With an accurate 2020 census count, North Carolina is projected to gain a seat in the House of Representatives, increasing its representation from 13 to 14 representatives.

The Census is confidential, and data is protected by federal law. Residents do not need to be concerned about safety and security, as census answers can’t be used against an individual, and data security is managed by security experts operating at the highest levels. Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot release any information that identifies individuals, and anyone who breaks this law faces a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison.

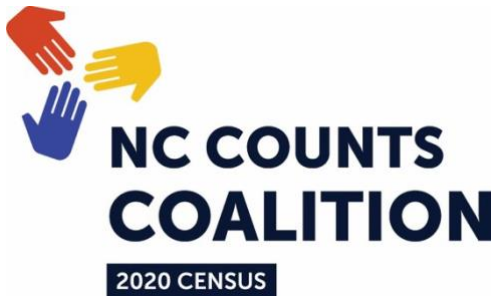
Households have until October 31, 2020 to respond to the Census. Responding to the Census is more **convenient** than ever. Households can respond by mail, phone (1-844-330-2020), or online ([www.my2020Census.gov](http://www.my2020Census.gov))

For more information, please visit [www.iCountNC.org](http://www.iCountNC.org) or [www.nccensus.org](http://www.nccensus.org).

### About NC Counts Coalition

NC Counts Coalition is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, established in 2017 to prepare North Carolina for the 2020 Census. The Coalition serves as a hub to facilitate cross-sector coordination among government, planning and community organizations, service providers, businesses and others to achieve a complete and accurate Census count for North Carolina. For more information go to our website at [www.nccensus.org](http://www.nccensus.org)

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## **2020 Census – Media Fact Sheet**

### **What is the Census?**

The Census is a complete count of every single person living in the United States on April 1, 2020, regardless of immigration status, housing status or age. Everyone Counts!

### **Why is the Census important to North Carolina?**

An accurate count is critically important as it determines how much federal funding North Carolina will receive for essential services that impact local communities. In 2017, North Carolina received nearly \$24 billion in federal funding, including:

- \$11.1 billion for health programs
- \$4.05 billion for education
- \$3.06 billion for food assistance programs
- \$1 billion for highway planning and construction
- \$370 million for housing assistance
- \$267 million for transit

The Census count is also used to shape congressional representation and more. Currently North Carolina has 13 representatives in the U.S. House but stands the chance of gaining one seat with a complete and accurate 2020 Census count. If that happens, North Carolina's congressional districts would have to be redrawn, which would also lead to an increase in the number of electoral votes North Carolina has in presidential elections.

### **How is North Carolina doing in the Census?**

Carolina Demography has a census tracker with weekly self-response participation rate updates: <https://www.ncdemography.org/2020-census-tracker/>

### **How does the Census operation work?**

Beginning in March, the U.S. Census Bureau began sending each household an invitation for residents to respond to the Census. By now, every household in North Carolina should have received an invitation to respond to the Census online, over the phone or by mail. The Census questionnaire asks nine questions. A copy of the questionnaire can be found here: <https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2019-08/2020-informational-questionnaire.pdf>. Only one person should complete the Census for the entire household. Every individual, including young children, should be counted.

### **What is the timeline for participation?**

The process began on March 12, 2020 and ends October 31, 2020. April 1, 2020 was Census Day, but this day only serves as a reference date. Individuals have until October 31, 2020

to participate in the Census. Anyone who does not respond to the Bureau's invitation will receive reminders in the mail until early May. Households that do not respond to the Bureau's invitations will be visited Census staff. The final Census count must be delivered to the president by Dec. 31, 2020

### **Is the Census confidential**

By law, answers to the Census are **CONFIDENTIAL**. The U.S. Census Bureau collects data for statistical purposes only and cannot share or publish any household-specific Census data including name, address, Social Security number or phone number. The U.S. Census Bureau will not identify participants' household, any person in a participant's household or business.

### **COVID-19 Impact on Census Timeline**

- The deadline for self-response online, by phone or by returning the paper questionnaire has been extended to October 31, 2020 (from July 31).
- Other operation updates can be found on the US Census Bureau's website: <https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/operational-adjustments-covid-19.html?#>

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