**FAQ for Call 5 for the Count:**

**Do I have to respond?** YES—your household should respond--it’s actually our civic duty. And it is our country’s only civic endeavor that includes ALL *and matters* for EVERYONE.

**I’m not officially a U.S. Citizen. Should I respond?** YES! If you live here in Kansas, you count. The Census is not about citizenship status, it IS inclusive and intended to count all who are here.

**I don’t see the point. What’s in it for me and my family?** Responding to the Census actually has an impact on every family in every community for the next 10 years. It ensures adequate representation in government and impacts how billions of dollars are distributed through federal, state and local programs. Thus, being counted allows households to have a direct 'say' in where dollars go—annually through 2030.  If your household is uncounted, it’s not included in the population counts used to distribute more than $6 billion dollars in Kansas--much needed dollars to your community—not only for today but for the next ten years.

**But WHY should I personally care about the Census?**

There are many quality-of-life programs for families, friends, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, businesses and employers, that are shaped by the Census and resulting population counts in our Kansas communities. You or someone you care about has likely been impacted by these programs---or potentially WILL be in the coming years. This is just a short list of some of the hundreds of programs impacted—and keep in mind—these counts will also influence dollars distributed through NEW programs for those that are created in the years to come:

1. School breakfast, lunch and summer food programs
2. Early childhood education, Headstart
3. Healthcare funding for health insurance, Medicaid and Medicare healthcare assistance
4. Housing Assistance programs
5. Emergency services and 911
6. FEMA funding for disasters and pandemic response in communities
7. School district English Language Learning, migrant, refugee and homeless funds
8. Funding for student grants/loans for technical schools and college
9. Funding for our Roads, highways, bridges
10. School, hospital construction assistance, etc.

**Are my local schools impacted by the Census?**

YES! Many of the programs listed above and more impact schools, AND population counts inform things beyond federal funding like district boundaries for schools, building new schools or closing schools, school programs like early childhood programs, planning for class sizes and new programs.

**Does the Census impact my local community?**

Absolutely. The Census will impact community and economic decisions for the next 10 years.

The Census impacts economic development opportunities and plans for new hospitals, schools, emergency services, road, highway and bridge construction, and new business opportunities.

**What if a family in my circle is concerned about responding, distrusting of the government, or fearful of retribution?**

1. It’s important to please acknowledge the fear. It is valid and understandable.
2. Please reinforce the ultimate goal of the Census is to count everyone who lives here—citizen or not. As a country of immigrants, this is a cornerstone for the Census effort which for more than 200 years has committed to counting everyone living here. Now more than ever, for adequate representation, for building the future of our country, for creating programs and building community, it’s important everyone in our community is included.
3. Be clear: The U.S. Census Bureau will not release any personal information:
4. The Census will NOT share any response data we receive with any local, city, county, state or federal agencies for 72 years.
5. All Census employees took an oath for life to never reveal any information to anyone.   
   Census employees guard your privacy with their liberty. They are subject to a minimum of 5 years to 22 years in federal prison and a fine of $250,000 to $650,000 per conviction if they reveal any information about anyone to any local, city, county, state or federal agency.
6. Every resident living in Kansas counts. There is NO immigration status needed to answer the Census. It does not matter if the person is a recent immigrant or that family has been in the U.S. for 200 years. The Census counts all who live here: those who have no immigration papers as well as every U.S. Citizen and everyone in between.

**I’m not sure ‘who’ to count in my household! Can you help?** Those filling out the census for your household should count everyone living there as of April 1, 2020.  This includes anyone—related or unrelated to you—who lives and sleeps at your home most of the time. Please be sure to count roommates, [young children, newborns](https://2020census.gov/en/who-to-count/young-children.html), and anyone who is renting a space in your home. If someone is staying in your home on April 1 and has no usual home elsewhere, you should count them in your response to the 2020 Census.

[***If someone such as a college student***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4Ee8ol_LxY)***is just living with you temporarily due to the COVID-19 situation, they should be counted where they would have been living on April 1, 2020, by responding online for themselves/their roommates at 2020census.gov or 1- 844-330-2020.***

Additional situations can be found [here.](https://2020census.gov/en/who-to-count.html)