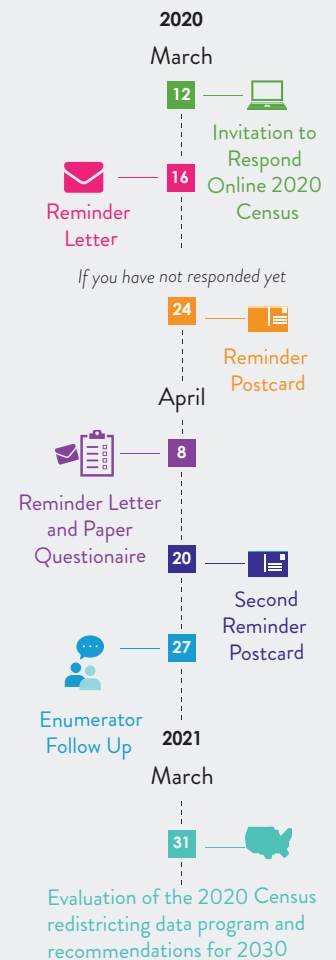


# What You Need to Know About the 2020 Census in Montgomery County

The 2020 Census directly impacts how much federal funding the State of Maryland will receive over the next decade. It is predicted that the State of Maryland will receive \$16,398,153,415 from 55 large federal programs for resources such as schools, hospitals, and infrastructure. Failure to obtain a complete and accurate census count may lead to Maryland losing millions of dollars in federal funding that supports programs that benefit Montgomery County residents. People of color, low-income populations, young children, immigrants, and undocumented residents are among the groups most likely to be undercounted. Ensuring services for Montgomery County residents in the future requires that we work together to accomplish an accurate Census count.

The 2020 Census will include two phases: self-response and non-response follow-up. Self-response is the most accurate way to complete the count and ensure that Census field representatives do not visit Montgomery County households. However, many households are less likely to complete the self-response because of factors such as distrust of government, complex home and living arrangements, and changes in technology that pose challenges for the self-response component. Boosting self-response numbers for the 2020 Census is the most effective way to ensure over \$800 billion (according to the George Washington University School of Public Policy) in federal funding is fairly distributed across the entire U.S. population, allowing residents to thrive, live, learn, and grow.

## 2020 Census Timeline



The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States every ten years. This information is used by the federal government to allocate resources across the country. Maryland can receive close to \$16,398,153,415 in federal dollars to improve schools, transportation, parks, government assistance programs, emergency assistance, etc. Business also use this information to inform their decisions and bring more growth and commerce.

**what?**  
is the  
U.S. Census

**how?**  
can you help

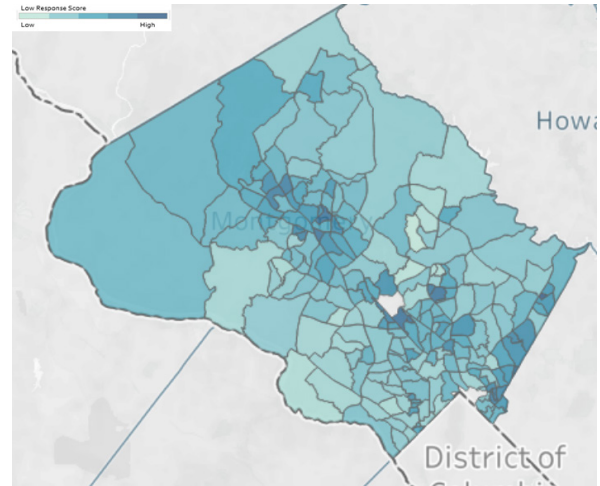
- Educate your staff/volunteers/community members about the Census so they can be a resource for clients/consumers and other community members – Visit [Maryland Census 2020](#).
- Convene workshops and webinars for philanthropic organizations, faith groups, parent groups, and community-based organizations to share resources and information and receive important updates.
- Engage trusted messengers in activities such as phone banking, public service announcements, social media messaging, and door-to-door canvassing to ensure we get the word out and increase the 2020 Census response rate.
- Provide opportunities in March and April 2020 for trusted community helpers at accessible neighborhood sites to offer internet access and assistance completing the form.

The Census is only 10 or 11 questions. Completing the Census will ensure that Montgomery County is eligible for its fair share of federal funding over the next 10 years. Completing the Census will ensure that Montgomery County receives proper political representation at the state and federal levels.

**why?**  
should I complete  
the Census

# Data on Census Tracts and Risk of Undercount in Montgomery County

Montgomery County has taken aggressive steps to ensure that immigrants are counted in the 2020 Census. Montgomery County's complete count Census committee, chaired by Council President Nancy Navarro, has more than 40 members organized into subgroups representing education, technology, community organizations, and business. Despite this effort, more work is needed to ensure immigrant populations participate in the 2020 Census. The Complete County Committee identified 42 areas of the county with large immigrant populations that require attention. These include lower-income areas on the east side of the county: Wheaton, Aspen Hill, parts of Gaithersburg and Germantown. It will be critical to engage trusted messengers and conduct extensive outreach within immigrant communities to ensure residents receive resources needed to address inequities in Montgomery County.



Data source: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) – Census tracts were obtained from the Planning Database that uses selected Census and 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates and the 2010 Census Mail Return Rate for each block group and tract. Last updated June 20, 2018.

## Frequently Asked Questions



**How can I get help completing the Census or accessing the internet?**

Once residents receive an invitation to complete the 2020 Census in the mail or online, there will be a number to call for assistance to complete the form.

**What about confidentiality?**

All Census responses are protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code. Under this law, the Census Bureau is required to keep respondent information confidential. The Bureau is prohibited from sharing respondents' personal information with immigration enforcement agencies, like ICE, or law enforcement agencies, like the FBI or police. The law also prohibits the use of Census data to determine or deny eligibility for government benefits. The results from any Census or Census-related survey are reported in aggregate statistical format only.

**What happens if I don't complete the 2020 Census?**

You will receive several follow-up mailings asking you to complete the Census form. Not completing the Census means Census workers will visit your residence because you are required by law to participate. If you cannot be reached, a Census worker may contact your neighbors for information about your family size.

**Will the Census be in my language?**

In 2020, the paper form will be available in English and Spanish. People may respond to the Census online and by phone in 13 languages (English, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic, French, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, and Tagalog). The Census Bureau will also have a language guide for 59 languages.