What is the Census?
The United States Constitution requires that the federal government conduct a count of every person living in the country once every 10 years. This count is used to determine the number of representatives a state sends to Congress, the allocation of $675 billion in federal funds for programs and services including education, transportation, housing, libraries, and public safety, and the distribution of valuable resources such as supermarkets, libraries, and schools.

Why should you respond to the Census?
It is economically important to ensure that you are counted in the census with complete and accurate information. Accurate census data has significant impacts on daily life. For example:

• Your Support for a Political Party or Candidate
• Passwords
• Your Mother’s Maiden Name
• Your Support for a Political Party or Candidate

Individuals and businesses regularly use census data to make decisions that significantly impact local economies. Failing to respond can deprive your community of much needed funds for schools, hospitals, and highways.

What questions does the census include?
The census questionnaire asks only for basic information for each person in the household. The questions include:

1. Name
2. Sex
3. Age (If under 5 years old, the name and sex are enough.)
4. Relationship to the household reference person (if any)
5. Race and Hispanic origin
6. Last 4 digits of Social Security number (optional)
7. Civil status
8. Date of birth
9. Ethnicity

Census data is used to determine the number of representatives each state sends to Congress, and each community receives in state and federal funding for programs and services. Census data is also used by researchers to study many topics of concern to the public, including marriage, divorce, and pregnancy outcomes.

How do I know if I’m being scammed?
There are some questions the U.S. Census Bureau will NEVER ask:

• Your Social Security number
• Your Bank or Credit Card Account numbers
• Your Account Number
• Your Password
• Your support for a Political Party or Candidate

Additionally, the U.S. Census Bureau will never threaten to arrest you or your family.

What happens if I DON’T respond to the census?
Starting in May 2020, the Census Bureau will send an enumerators to your home to help you respond to the Census. In addition, every person is required by law to provide full and accurate responses to the census.

If you or someone you know is approached by an enumerator, they should provide the official bag with the emblem of the Census Bureau, a letter on official letterhead stating why they are visiting, and an ID badge including:

• Your Support for a Political Party or Candidate
• Passwords
• Your Mother’s Maiden Name
• Your Support for a Political Party or Candidate

If an enumerator does not have these items, they are not Census Bureau employees, who will seek to collect only the information requested in the questionnaire. To verify that a census visit is legitimate, see the back panel of this publication.

What are Census Surveys/Phone Calls?
Along with the once-in-a-decade population count, the Census Bureau conducts more than 130 surveys each year. Official Census employees are unable to reach you, they will leave a message with a case ID associated with your number. To verify, responding to a fraud call could result in 5 years in prison and a fine of $250,000. This includes Census Bureau officials and enumerators.

Federal law also prohibits disclosures to courts or other federal and state agencies. Individuals who violate the law by disclosing information collected during the census, will be subject to fines up to $10,000.

CensusMail:
If you receive a letter from the Census Bureau, it will be mailed from, and returned to, the Census Bureau’s National Processing Center at 1201 East 10th St. in Jeffersonville, IN.

Census E-mails:
The Census Bureau does not send unsolicited e-mails to request participation in the Census. If you receive an e-mail, do not click on any links, do not open any attachments, and do not reply. If you are concerned, please visit the Census Bureau website at 2020census.gov.

CensusSurveys/PhoneCalls:
If you receive a census survey by phone, the Census Bureau conducts more than 130 surveys each year. Official Census employees will identify themselves by their name and the name of their case. They will not ask you to provide any of the following information: your Social Security number, passwords, passwords. Your Mother’s Maiden Name, your Support for a Political Party or Candidate.

To verify that a visitor is a Census Bureau employee:
Census employees and enumerators.

For more information, contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 2020census.gov.