

CENSUS 2020 TALKING POINTS



Why it Matters to Montana

- For Census 2020, Montana's Census and Economic Information Center at the Montana Department of Commerce will support national, regional and state U.S. Census Bureau offices and staff to achieve a complete count. In 2010, CEIC was successful in supporting a 100 percent complete count.
- A complete count is imperative for Montana to receive its fair share of population-based funding. A report prepared by Price Waterhouse Coopers estimated 14,390 individuals living in Montana were missed in the 2000 Census equating to at least \$21 million in lost federal funding to the state.
- For every Montana resident counted, the Census estimates the state will receive almost \$2,000 each year for ten years. That is \$20,000 per person over the decade flowing across Montana counties for highway planning, medical assistance, educational programs, need-based support, and infrastructure. For every individual who is not counted, the state will lose an estimated \$20,000 over the decade.
- In 2017, more than \$2 billion from 300 federal programs was allocated back to Montana based on Census counts and information.
- Good planning is based on reliable, up-to-date, accurate and detailed information on the communities within the state. This information makes it possible to plan better services, improve the quality of life and solve existing problems. Statistical information, which serves as the basis for constructing planning forecasts, is essential for the democratic process since it enables the citizens to examine the decisions made by the government and local authorities; and decide whether they serve the public they are meant to help. For example, when planning a school system, there is a need for a forecast of the number of projected students who are likely to need schools, in order to ensure that the schools will be sited in locations with an appropriate number of pupils and built to the appropriate size.
- The Census determines state-level funding for 300 federal programs. These programs include allocations for Medicaid, highway construction, infrastructure, school lunches, and Head Start.
- The Census count also serves as the keystone for our representative government in two ways. First, it determines the number of representatives each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives under Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. Secondly, decennial census data is used in redistricting to draw the lines that link representatives to their constituents for the next ten years.

What is Montana Doing and Who is doing the Work?

- CEIC has developed its work plans, communications plans, and has assembled its complete count committee to ensure a successful Census 2020.
- The complete count committee (CCC) is a group of volunteers established across the state whose purpose will be to increase awareness about the Census and motivate residents in their communities to respond.
- Leonard Smith, Executive Director of the Native American Development Corporation in Billings and Kathie Bailey, Executive Director of the Snowy Mountain Development Corporation in Lewistown have agreed to serve as Co-chairs of the CCC. Leonard Smith and Kathie Bailey were recruited to serve as CCC co-chairs because of their understanding of tribes and rural communities; areas that are both traditionally difficult to count due to

remoteness, challenges in delivery since Census forms can't be mailed to a P.O. or Rural Box location, more limited broadband coverage and other factors. We are confident that their leadership will help the Montana CCC effectively support the US Census Bureau counting effort for Census 2020.

- Learn more and watch for updates at: [CENSUS.MT.GOV](https://census.mt.gov)

About the Montana Census & Economic Information Center (CEIC)

The Census and Economic Information Center (CEIC) is located in the Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development at the Department of Commerce, and is designated under MCA 90-1-109 as the state census and economic information repository for the state. It is the US Census Bureau's designated State Data Center (SDC) for disseminating Census Bureau data for Montana, which it has done since 1978. Since the 1980s, CEIC has supported the U.S. Census Bureau's decennial census efforts and will do that again in 2020.

What is the Timeline for the 2020 Census in Montana?

The U.S. Census Bureau has several Federal Census Partnership specialists dedicated to Montana and has opened an office in Billings.

During the summer of 2019, federally hired Census workers will be driving around Montana to update addresses (Address Canvassing) and make sure all residential structures are mapped to receive a 2020 Census form. The actual enumeration will begin in Montana in March 2020.

The timeline for the 2020 Census count is as follows:



2020 Census counting will begin in Montana somewhere between the end of February - first of March in 2020. In 2010, census workers had to use snowmobiles to reach the more remote areas for Update and Leave operations. Update and Leave is for residences that do not have a physical mailing address – usually only a P.O. Box.

2020 Census is Confidential and Safe

The information collected on the 2020 Census form is completely confidential, protected under Federal law, and is never provided to other departments, agencies, law enforcement or courts.

How do I find out about Census Jobs in Montana?

In late Fall, the Census will begin hiring for 2020 field staff to conduct the count. It is expected up to 2,160 jobs will be available throughout Montana for the 2020 Census Count.

No industry-specific experience is required. To be eligible, you must be at least 18 years of age, a U.S. citizen and speak fluent English. Those seeking address canvassing and some other field jobs also need access to a car. All those chosen for hire will need to pass a federal background check which takes up to eight weeks to complete.

There are two ways to apply: Go directly to the U.S. Census Bureau website 2020census.gov/jobs or montanaworks.gov. Or, go to any of the 17 Job Service offices in the state.