

2018-2019 ConnectHome - The 2020 Census, 1/28/20

Robin Bachman: Sort of our end-to-end task. And we opened up regional census centers, and we opened up area census offices. So we've been doing work to get ready for the 2020 census for quite some time.

We did our in-field address canvassing operation, and that wrapped up in the fall. So you would have seen census takers or, actually, the in-field campuses in the communities doing that work, and that was to triple-check our master address file.

And as I mentioned, we have done our first enumeration that was in Toksook Bay, Alaska. Our director went up in a little biplane all the way up to remote Alaska to do our first enumeration. That is an in-person enumeration.

We actually go and do the counts that way and we'll get to the different ways we do a count but that was one. We do that one because of the weather. We need to be up there early enough for when the ground is frozen.

And then you might have started to see already we have launched our address -- pardon me -- our advertising campaign. We have a major campaign to try to get out to all the different publics, all the different audiences that the census is safe, easy, and important. It's coming, and then we'll convert to a real strong motivation phase of that campaign in March.

But right now, the ads are slowly starting to come through the different ways. So there's TV. There's print. There's radio. There's outdoor, so like billboards and such. And so we're trying to get to all the different hard-to-count communities or communities in general to let them know that the census is almost here.

Since we only do it every ten years, it's also that moment in time to remind folks that we do this every ten years and why it's safe, easy, and important.

So the advertising campaign will continue through January, February, March. March will be the real part about the motivation to align with when we mail out the invitation, and then it will continue through non-response follow-up to try to encourage those who haven't filled out their form to try to get them to fill out the form themselves or to let folks know that we'll have census takers coming into the community.

So looking at the rest of this timeline, internet self-response starts in March. We invite people around the week of March 12th. Everybody will get an invitation in the mail.

Census day is April 1st, and that's our reference day. So when the recipient or the respondents receive the invitation to do the form or the questionnaire, the reference day on the form is, where did you live on April 1st? And then we have self-response going from March to May, and then we will have census takers start -- starting towards the end of May, if we don't have responses from households. And that non-response follow-up goes into July.

And then you see on our graphic here too we are required to give apportionment counts to the president by December 31st. So it's a quick turnaround, and then our redistricting summary files come out March 31st of 2021. And then you'll see other data products coming out as we go throughout next year.

So this is another way to look at what I just went through. So as I said, the invitation will come into the mail over the week of March 12th, and we'll encourage respondents to respond either online, by phone, or by mail.

And then this notes that we'll also start some of those other operations such as group quarters for college students, seniors in nursing homes, et cetera at the same time. And then, again, recapping that we'll non-response follow-up if we don't hear from the household.

Challenges. So trying to conduct a major operation when a lot of residents are really, really busy and we're a more mobile population. Many of us have informal complex living arrangements.

We have fiscal constraints both on the governmental side and then some of our respondents, obviously, are feeling that as well. There's rapid changes in technology, information exposure, and distrust in government, et cetera. These all lead into challenges that we needed to think through in a thoughtful way on how we would go and ask people to fill out the form.

So how are we going to do this? As I mentioned, we're going to invite everyone to respond, and the vast majority of the country, so about 95 percent, will get an invitation through their mail. There's a part of the country, the fewer than 1 percent that's where I just mentioned where we went up to Toksook Bay in Alaska. We're going to also do a similar procedure in May where we -- a census taker actually go and get the response then and there. So that's about 1 percent of the country.

There's another 5 percent of the country where we, as census workers, take -- it's called update leaves. So we'll go and update our list but then also leave a questionnaire for the person to respond either by phone, by mail, or by -- pardon me -- online or by phone. And then the rest of the country will get the invitation. Oops. Sorry. Click.

So and let's get into a little bit about who we count. So in the households it's anyone who's living and sleeping there most of the time. So if you have somebody staying in your house on April 1st that doesn't have a usual home address, then they should be included on your form. If we have foreign citizens in the country and they're living here, they too get counted. But if the person is just visiting or on vacation, then they don't get counted.

And a lot of what we're doing in national partnership is to talk to different audiences to just ask for additional help. We have over the decades missed people. So what we call an undercount. And we want 100 percent. We want to count everyone once and only once and in the right place. But we've seen through our research and other's research that we have had an undercount. And these are some of the hard-to-count and hard-to-reach populations.

So people who are highly mobile. Young kids, we -- we absolutely are trying vitally this decade to do more in terms of operations and things to make sure that we're asking everyone who's in the household to remember the infant because we missed a million children between the ages of zero and five last decade. And some of the advocacy groups actually estimate that that number is low. So a million or more children -- young children were missed last time.

So we're trying to do things operationally to make sure that we probe and, when you get the census form, to definitely make sure that you're including everybody on the form. But then also you'll see in our advertising campaign a lot of little kids to help just remind everyone filling out the form that -- to include everyone in the house.

Members of the racial and -- of racial -- pardon me -- and ethnic minorities have often been undercounted. People who do not speak English proficiently, low-income persons, persons experiencing homelessness, persons who are not living in traditional housing, undocumented immigrants, individuals who identify themselves as LGBTQ plus, persons who are distrustful of government, rural populations, and persons with disabilities are some of our hard-to-count and hard-to-reach communities.

So as you do your work, if there's ways that you can help add your trusted voice about why it's important to fill out the form, that will really help get the 2020 census to a complete count.

So I sort of stepped through this, but this is what we're about ready to do. So we are in the motivation phase, weeks away from that. We're doing education right now about ready to do motivation and asking everyone to self-respond. That's our hope is that the vast majority of the country will self-respond because -- I'm hearing some back noise. Can everyone hear me okay?

Caila Prendergast: Yeah. I can hear you okay.

Robin Bachman: Great. Thank you. So the self-response is ideal and that's where we try -- we're going to -- we anticipate we'll get about 57 percent of the country that will self-respond. If we don't get a self-response, that's when we -- we'll go out with census takers and follow up on the doors. And so a lot of the messaging and the advertising campaign is to encourage folks to fill out their form.

We'll touch a little bit about group quarters in a second, and then we talked about non-response follow up and then the tabulation and the release of the data, which is so important, and why we collect all that information.

So where are people counted? So Dina, Caila, and I were talking and Kelly about who's on the call today or the webinar today. And so I'm going to breeze through these a little bit, but if there are questions around service-based enumeration, which is counting persons experiencing homelessness or where we count in the transitory locations such as RVs and racetracks and carnivals and such, we can talk a little bit more about that.

But we do have other operations to make sure that we're counting everyone, and then the group quarters also includes nursing homes, correctional facilities, convents, colleges, et cetera. That's what I just mentioned.

Residency rules. So because of complex households, it -- the answer to the question is, where have you lived? And so that's not always easy a question to answer for all of our residents and all of our neighbors. So we do try to give some guides around residency rules. And if you have questions on that, our website is strong, and we do try to have some good FAQs to help inform if that question is one that your residents or some of your neighbors or in your community are asking.

And then, as I mentioned, special populations we do do operations to try to make sure that we're counting everybody.

Persons in correctional facilities for adults. If you were watching the census news over the last number of years, there was a question around where we would count those in correctional facilities. And so we do count them at the facility. The Census Bureau will make available a bulk geocoding service in order to assist states in their goals of reallocating their own prison populations.

So if that's something that you want more information on, I'm happy to point you to additional detail, but that was a question that has -- was discerned over the last couple of years.

What's on the form? So the good news is it's actually not that long of a form. So Census is a statistical agency. We do a number of other information collections, including the American Community Survey, which is a really important survey in and of its own right. But the decennial census, the 2020 census really only has less than ten questions on it.

So we'll ask the number of people living or staying at your home on April 1st, whether the home is owned or rented, the sex of each person in the home, the age of each person in the home, whether a person in the home is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, the race of each person in the home, and then the relationship to each person in the home.

So those are the questions, and then if you remember the form from last decade, we have added two new things. There's a write-in area under the race question. So if persons want to identify a little bit more under the race question, there is now a write-in box that's available. And then category answer options for people in same-sex relationships living in the same household, that is a new option since the last time we did the decennial census.

So let's talk about how it's easier and safer. So it's online, by phone, or by mail. I was struggling with that a second ago. Sorry about that. So online is the -- Dina mentioned it's new for the decennial. We have done a number of information collections at the Census Bureau online, but this is the first time for the decennial census that we're offering an online option.

By phone, meaning that the respondent can pick up and call us on a phone number and give us the information over the phone. Or by mail. So the paper questionnaire is the traditional way that

most folks who've done the census over the years remember, and so that option is still available. The way that will work is, if the household doesn't respond by around -- ballpark around April 8th, we will automatically mail a paper questionnaire to that household.

And then this just also notes that we try to help with language. So you can respond in English or one of 12 other languages. And then we have print and video language guides in 59 non-English languages as well. So we're asking communities and different partner groups to really help get that information out so that we can make sure that somebody who wants to have help in a non-English language has that help.

And so that's available, and I can show you on the web where that is or get the information to Dina. And then we also have a video language guide that will be available for American sign language, and print guides will be available in braille and also in large print.

Here are the languages that we have available for self-response, both online and phone and then what we have targeted for our advertising campaign. So it's English, Spanish, Chinese, both Mandarin and Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Japanese.

And as I mentioned, we have language guides available in 59 languages beyond English. And we do have a bilingual mailing for certain tracks that have a really strong presence of Spanish speaking in that census track. And if you have questions about that, let me know after, and I can point you to the map for that.

As I mentioned, the questionnaire assistance will be really helpful. So someone who doesn't want to go on the internet or doesn't want to do the paper, the phone is a great option. And we'll have help in both English and then 12 other languages, and we'll have a dedicated phone number for those other languages as well.

Non-response follow-up. So that's where we have census takers going out, knocking on doors to those houses that didn't respond. And that's towards the end of May and into July. We don't have a firm end of the cliff sort of moment for that. We'll get the work done. So we say July.

Now, this is an area that we get a number of questions from partners, and with your organization that does a lot of internet work, I'm sure you get questions too about safety of cyber. So it is online, and we partner with government and industry to make sure that how we're doing this data collection is safe.

Our information is encrypted. We take an oath for life. So I've sworn an oath for life to keep all personal data safe and secure, and I'm a permanent employee. And our temporary employees and contractors take the same oath for life. And the census continually identifies, protects, detects, responds, and recovers from cyber threats.

The data is confidential. Title 13 is our U.S. Code. It's the Census Act, and it's very strong. So any Census Bureau staff that take -- that violates it, we are subject to a penalty of up to \$250,000 and up to five years in prison and will be fired. So it's a very strong oath. We will not release

individual-level data, and we do not share data with immigration, law enforcement, or allow the data to be used to determine eligibility benefits for individuals.

So if Dina called me up and said, I need some data on an individual, I would say, sorry, Dina. You're not getting data on that individual.

Seriously, I just want to make sure that this slide is one that everyone really helps us get the word out because there is distrust in government that isn't necessarily census-related, but we are trying to make sure that we get a full and accurate count. And the respondent needs to feel comfortable that we're going to keep the information safe.

We're not going to ask for full Social Security numbers. We won't ask for money or donations. We won't do anything on behalf of a political party, and we will not ask for a bank or a credit card number.

So if you in your work with your residents or your families hear that somebody's saying, hey, the census is asking me for these things, please let us know. Give us a call, or on our website there's a rumors page. If you go to 2020census.gov and then search rumors, we are trying to make sure that we address fraud and scams and this information as quickly as possible.

And if there's questions about if the person is a true census taker or census worker, make sure they have a valid ID with a photo. And if -- when in doubt, you can give us a call, and we can help determine if that person is a true census taker.

How are we doing on time, Caila and Dina?

Female: We have about 30 minutes left.

Robin Bachman: Okay. So I think we're doing pretty well. So I'd like to spend a little time here about how -- I'm hoping that you'll be able to join us in the work.

So this site talks about outreach materials that we have. So 2020census.gov is our website, and then if you go to 2020census.gov/partners, you'll see a lot of information that you're welcome to use and share and share widely. We'd ask you to do it.

One of the areas that you'll see on there is our outreach materials. Pardon me. And so this is a sample. There's a lot of fact sheets, including fact sheets about housing, why the data are important, the benefits to the community. There's a number of posters and fact sheets just on confidentiality. So as I mentioned, I -- we're trying to do everything we can to give people comfort that the information is safe and secure and kept confidential.

And then there's also what I mentioned around how we're going to do it. So this one on the right is in Spanish, and it's talking about the fact that we'll mail out the week of March 12th the invitation to all households, that we'll send a reminder letter the week of March 16th, and then we'll do a reminder postcard and then we'll mail a paper questionnaire if we have not heard from the household around the week of April 8th.

So all this is posted on 2020census.gov/partners. And then also on that page you'll see a list of other national partners. So if you're curious to see who else is a partner, there's a list of our national partners. There's also information on complete count committees on that page. There's a PSA toolkit, which is Public Service Announcements, and those are videos and such that you're welcome to use and share.

So we're trying to get information out to communities and community groups and national organizations to make it as turnkey or as easy as possible to help you help us get the word out.

Statistics in Schools is super fun, I must say, and speaking as a census person. They have a storybook. So if you have a kid's corner or anything at your housing units and public housing, we would encourage you to take a stroll through the Statistics in Schools page. They have a song. They have coloring pages.

It's just a great way to get the word out about the 2020 census, but then also, sort of more fundamentally, kids are just great because they get it and they encourage their moms and dads to fill out the form too. So Statistics in School has a lot of resources, and so I'd encourage you to take a stroll there.

One of the things that we've -- Dina and I have talked about because we've done a few things with your organization -- so thank you so much -- is hiring. So we have to hire up to about 500,000 people to do that census enumeration, the non-response follow-up that we mentioned. So I say there's three modes to collect the information, so online, phone, or paper. But then really the fourth mode is the census taker.

So we need folks to be able to do that work with us, and now is the time to apply because we need to get the applicants into the pool so when we need to do the hiring -- the training and then the hiring, they're all ready to go for when we do non-response follow-up.

So if you have a job board or if any of your residents have -- if there's any places that you can post about jobs, this is a great ask we're doing of partners. And I know there's a lot going on, but if you could spread the word that we're hiring and it's not too early to apply, that would be really helpful.

The address is at the bottom here, 2020census.gov/jobs. There's an FAQ on there if people have questions about the background check or anything about the process. And then the other thing I'd mention is there's an information posted -- pardon me -- about how much we're paying. It's by locality, so depending on the area and the cost of living and such. But it's a decent pay, and so a lot of the folks have been surprised at our hourly wage. So do take a look and spread the word, if you would. Thank you. That would be really helpful.

Complete Count Committees. I bet a number of you are actually probably sitting on your local Complete Count Committee. So this is a committee that's put together usually by the local government, so the city or the county. There's tribal Complete Count Committees. There's state

Complete Count Commissions and committees. And then some other nonprofits also have set up their own CCCs too.

It's a great way to come together as a community to try to think through mobilizing getting a full and accurate count. At the bottom there you'll see the address, census.gov/2020completecount. There's a listing of all the Complete Count Committees posted there.

So if you haven't connected with your CCC and would like to, take a look and reach out to the lead for the Complete Count Committee. It's a great way to get active and to also just think through what would be a wonderful fit for your own town or your own community to get a full and accurate count.

If you forget this address that's on this slide, as I mentioned, it's also on 2020census.gov/partners. There's a Complete Count Committee section under there too.

Okay. Oh, I was going to spend a little bit more time about the ways that your organization can help us. And so what -- I know that you all have for your residents in many instances computer labs or you do some direct case management with your residents. So the help that we are asking -- and it depends on what fits for you, but online, obviously, is a place that you need to either have a mobile device or you need to have access to your computer to do the form that way.

So I can help steer you to some resources around how to make sure folks know that your computer lab is available to fill out the form because that would be really great to just do some education within your units to say, hey, the census is here. It's easy. You're welcome to come down to our computer lab, and here's -- and then maybe put some posters up. It just really depends on you, but the fact that it's online and you have that offering for -- in a number of your places, that's exceedingly helpful.

And that's -- you're seeing that with other libraries and other locations as well, that they're trying to think through how they can help get folks access to the online form.

We talked about recruitment, which is another way that you can help in spreading the word, and just even retweeting some of our social media about jobs would be really helpful.

Getting the word out to your employees themselves, so thinking through all the different folks who work for you and letting them know how important a full and accurate count is for your communities, is really a great way to lend your voice to the effort.

And then also, just be aware that census takers will come onto your properties or on -- at your locations, and so if they have any questions, just to be open for the census workers who will be coming on to do the non-response follow-up.

The other thing I wanted to mention -- and it depends on your facility, but the PSAs, those Public Service Announcements, are videos. Those are free for the taking, and so if you have any screens, any flatscreens or places in waiting areas or gathering spaces, those can be looped. We've had a number of partners have a lot of the videos going in common areas, and it's a great

way to educate in a friendly way that people can just stop and capture a little information in 30-second bites.

The other thing on that is we have videos showing how to fill out the form. So if there's someone who maybe it's the first time they've done the census, we have a video for in English, but then in all the other languages are coming online too. So if there's a way to put that video up on a screen, that would be really helpful.

So those are just some ideas, but I'm happy to chat more about some other ways that perhaps you could join us in partnering. And then how to get ahold of us.

So census.partners@census.gov. So that's the national address. So that's my team. So if you have any questions at the national level or have a warm lead that you want to suggest to make sure that we're partnering with or just have a question for me or my team, that's a way to get ahold of us there.

And then we're organized by regions, and so these are the six regional centers. So it's Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, L.A., New York, and Philadelphia. And you'll see the states that are covered by these regions. If you'd like a little bit more information about maybe service-based enumeration or if you want to know more about your Complete Count Committee or just want to become a partner at the local level, these e-mails and phone numbers should get you to the right place to help do that.

So that's my spiel. Thank you so much for having me join. Diana and Caila, I will see if there were any questions and turn it back to you.

Caila Prendergast: Hi, Robin. Yeah. Thanks for that. I'm not seeing any questions right now on my end, but I know that I had some -- my speaker was having some issues when I explained earlier. So I'm going to just explain that again really quick.

If you -- if any of the participants have a question, you can ask your question in two ways. You can type it in the chat box or you can raise your hand on the navigation panel and I'll unmute your line and you can ask your question that way as well. Okay.

Dina Lehmann-Kim: Thank you, Robin. This is Dina. So while we're waiting for questions -- I'm sure we'll get some -- thank you again for doing this wonderful presentation.

Question for you about census takers. You mentioned something about having an ID. Would their ID be their own driver's license, or would it be an ID issued by the Census?

Robin Bachman: Oh, thanks, Dina. That's a good question. We issue that. So it's a temporary job, but it's a federal government job. So there is a background check and we'll fingerprint and then we issue the Census badge.

Dina Lehmann-Kim: Okay. Great. Thanks.

Caila Prendergast: Okay. So I just had a question come in. "For counting homeless people, what does the census do, or do they just use the point in time count?"

Robin Bachman: Thanks. That's a great question. We actually -- we do an enumeration. So let me -- Caila, can I back up? Is that -- do I still have control?

Caila Prendergast: Yeah.

Robin Bachman: Okay. Great. So for homeless persons or persons experiencing homelessness -- pardon me -- we do an operation called service-based enumeration. And so this set aside 17, 18, and I think 19 and 20 have information on this operation.

So what the field is doing for our regions now are working with nonprofits and others who are the local cities and communities for identifying places where persons experiencing homelessness congregate. So we will do an enumeration, and it spans over three days where we'll go to soup kitchens, mobile food vans, shelters, and we'll do -- and we'll go in person as census takers and do the enumeration with the person experiencing homelessness.

We also do a procedure where we're working with the same community groups to identify where persons congregate. So in some moments it's under an underpass or other places where a person experiencing homelessness will stay. And so those identified locations -- and I just shifted to the next slide -- that's targeted non-sheltered outdoor location. That is part of our effort to make sure that we're counting everyone, including persons experiencing homelessness. So we will do that again in person to do those counts.

The other thing to mention, because it is online and there will be an awful lot of advertising for outdoor, so if the person experiencing homelessness is someone who might go to a library, he or she could also do their form at a library or another -- or if the shelter has ability to offer computer access, that we anticipate we will get persons experiencing homelessness to fill out the form that way as well.

I think that the next slide -- and then slide 19 tries to think through some of the different scenarios of where folks are. We do in our advertising -- also, you'll see -- try to think through with families if -- if they have an aunt that's been staying with them for quite some time, to make sure that the auntie gets counted as well or, if they've rented out their basement apartment, to make sure that that person who's rented out that apartment gets counted.

We don't check any sort of status of whether they're on the lease or anything like that. So that's where the confidentiality and the security message is paramount so that folks feel comfortable filling out the form and including everybody on the form.

Does that answer the question?

Caila Prendergast: I think so. I'll ask that whoever answered that question to follow up. If you had any follow-up questions, just send me a chat.

Robin Bachman: And let me just say, Caila -- I'm sorry. The only other thing I would say is, if there's listeners or webinar participants who know of locations that should be considered, perhaps, say, part of their efforts with HUD is to do work with persons experiencing homelessness, we are -- we are still taking those recommendations on locations.

So the way to do that is you can e-mail the e-mail address that I had at the -- toward the tail end of the slide and you can connect up with the region because we're -- because it is the nature of the work and a lot of the locations aren't always the same month to month. We are trying to make sure that we have our current list of places to do the enumeration.

Caila Prendergast: Okay. Great. We've got a bunch of questions coming in. I'm going to group a few of them together right here related to the census taker job you were discussing.

So the questions are, "How long is the period of employment? How long would you be a census taker? And then how long would it take to get started? What's the background process like?"

Robin Bachman: Sure.

Caila Prendergast: Yeah. [inaudible].

Robin Bachman: You want me to take the first two?

Caila Prendergast: Yeah.

Robin Bachman: Or was there a third -- okay. So the period of employment can depend, but the vast majority of the jobs that we're hiring for are those census takers, so those who will help us do non-response follow-up, so knocking on the doors. And that can vary, but estimate is that those are about six to eight weeks in the chunk of time. And they're not full-time. They're more 25, 30 hours a week.

So it's a job that, if you have another job, it's -- you can figure out a way to add this as your second or third job because it is flexible in the sense that some of the work that we'll be doing is evenings and weekends because we try to follow up with households when people are home. So don't rule yourself out, if you're thinking about it, because there is flexibility on the work.

But to answer the underlying question, it's about six to eight weeks depending on the workload, and it's about -- it's less than full-time, but that can vary depending on the workload as well.

On the background check, I'd encourage you to go to 2020census.gov/jobs and there's an FAQ and there's some nice summaries about what it would involve. It is not -- because you as a census taker are collecting confidential information, there is a background check required.

Caila Prendergast: Okay. Great. So two more that I'm going to kind of lump together. "So if you apply to be a census taker, say, this week, when do you expect to hear from the hiring rep?" And then the second question is, if you work -- "If you currently are employed at a Public Housing Authority, could you also get a job as a census taker?"

Robin Bachman: Nice. So there -- the federal government has given waivers for federal workers to take a census job. So on that same job site, the 2020census.gov/jobs, there's a list of all the federal agencies that have waived the restriction of not being able to take a second job. And so -- and I'm pretty darn sure HUD is one.

Dina, do you know? Or I can double check.

Dina Lehmann-Kim: I don't know off the top of my head. Yeah. Sorry. I don't know.

Robin Bachman: No. That's okay. Let's see how mad my skills are here.

And then, oh, when will you get notified by the hiring rep? So it is a process where we're trying to mobilize a very, very large workforce. So we're trying to get the pool of applicants in now, but the reality is that the -- some of the jobs won't start until the spring. There are smaller hirings that we're doing that are in office and elsewhere, but a good chunk or the majority are census takers. So those won't start until the spring.

But the way the process has been working is you should hear from Census within days of your application that they -- and then it's through a portal. So you'll also have the ability to e-mail us, and then you can call the local office if you're not hearing from us. There's an 800 number that's tied to the jobs as well. It's 1-855-JOB-2020 is the number, and then you can go through the prompts. And there's a way that it will connect you to your local Census office, if you're not hearing from us.

There has been frustration because of our responsiveness early on, and we've dramatically improved that. So I apologize if you applied a while ago and didn't hear from us, but we have turned that corner and are doing better. And if you're not hearing from us, give us a call.

Caila Prendergast: Great. Thanks, Robin. Okay. Next question. I think this is a little bit for Dina and Robin. The question is, "HUD provided guidance for public housing about census income being excluded. However, the notice for multi-family housing was expired. Would you know if HUD will be issuing a new notice or extending the multi-family notice?"

Dina Lehmann-Kim: That's a very good question. I don't know, but I will find out and send a message out.

Caila Prendergast: Okay. Great. Thanks, Dina.

Robin Bachman: And, Dina, I'll send over the waiver information about HUD as well, so that way when you send it out, you have both.

Dina Lehmann-Kim: Great. Just --

Robin Bachman: Okay.

Dina Lehmann-Kim: And just for clarification, as somebody mentioned in the chat too, that Public Housing Authority staff are not HUD employees. So they would be under a different category. So I'm not sure how that would work, but I can try to find out. I don't know if you would know, Robin. Let's say they're municipal employees, for examples. Would they be able to also work as census takers?

Robin Bachman: No. Thank you. And that's a great reminder. Apologize I made that leap.

Dina Lehmann-Kim: No. No. No. That's okay.

Robin Bachman: But no. Let me find out because we get that question. So we'll take the question back, and I'll work with you, Dina, so we can get an answer back to the group.

Dina Lehmann-Kim: Okay. Sounds good.

Caila Prendergast: Great. Next question. "How will the census account for family members in the armed forces?"

Robin Bachman: Thank you for that question. I don't think I have that one on my slide. Did I? let's see. No. I did not. Okay.

So as I mentioned, there are residency rules. So a servicemember who is living in military barracks, he or she would be counted through that administrative data. So we would work with the Department of Defense to count the military servicemember who's living in barracks.

But if a military servicemember is living off campus or off base, they will get invited as everyone else will, and they would fill out their form. Those who are deployed or stationed outside of the United States, we, again, work with the Department of Defense to use administrative data to enumerate them abroad.

And if anyone has other sort of residency rule questions, there's some nice materials on the 2020census.gov/partners and also just if you do under search because it's a great question because we count people who are living in the United States. But for servicemembers, that's how we count -- how we'll count them.

Caila Prendergast: Great. So it looks like we have someone who has raised their hand to ask a question. Carlton Lewis, I am going to unmute your line, and feel free to ask your question. Carlton? Okay. Maybe it was an accidental hand raise. I'll move on since we only have a few more minutes.

So we have a question about immigration status. And so the question is, "I know you stated that information from the census data will not be shared with immigration agencies. What about the rumors that there will be a citizenship question on the census?" Can you speak to that?

Robin Bachman: Would you repeat that, Caila? That there will be a citizenship question on the - - on the what? What did it say?

Caila Prendergast: On the census. Yeah.

Robin Bachman: On the census. Okay. Thank you. So no. Great question. Thank you.

So as we were finalizing the census form, the secretary did ask to include a citizenship question on the decennial census. After it had been reviewed and reviewed by the courts, it's not included on the 2020 census. So there is no citizenship question on the 2020 census questionnaire.

If somebody would like to actually look at the questionnaire, it is -- there is a sample posted on our website. So just to familiarize yourself with how we ask all the questions, there -- or if you have a resident that asked questions, we have a sample form posted. So you're welcome to take a look at that.

The -- as I had mentioned a while ago, we are a statistical agency that does a lot of information collections. So the American Community Survey does still include a citizenship question. So that's the survey that we do a large sample of the country. So if you get a resident who is in sample for the American Community Survey, it's about 72 questions, and it includes the citizenship question that we've been asking for quite some time.

So that was a very long answer, but the short answer is the 2020 census form does not include a citizenship question.

Caila Prendergast: Great. Thanks, Robin. The next question, "Clients receiving housing assistance, will they be exempt from income working as census takers?"

Robin Bachman: Let me take that question back.

Caila Prendergast: Okay.

Robin Bachman: I believe so. There was a number of waivers that we received, but I would -- I prefer not to guess, though.

Caila Prendergast: Okay. Yeah. Sounds good. We'll follow up on that.

"In the case of disaster, how will we count the people who are displaced?"

Robin Bachman: That's a great question. So our operation -- so as I mentioned, the majority of folks will get an invitation in the mail, but we will -- for those areas that are deemed disaster -- and it's an operations question that colleagues in this building helped make that decision with the government. Did it get declared as a disaster?

We can then employ one of the other operations that we do to do enumeration where we'll either go in person and just do the enumeration right there on the spot or we'll go and leave the invitation to fill out the form and then the household will respond. So it depends on the community and the -- so we will employ one of the other operations in a disaster area.

Caila Prendergast: Okay. Great. Thank you. Next question. This is actually -- I'm going to group some questions again.

So one of the questions is, "Can a person be counted multiple times such as at a shelter or a soup kitchen?" And then we had another question asking about how people living in shelters are counted [inaudible].

Robin Bachman: So we do count respondents once and only once, and so we do have some deduping procedures. So we'd rather the person -- if they don't recall if they had filled out a form -- perhaps they're getting us confused with another survey or something -- to go ahead and please do the enumeration. And then we will do a deduplication on our end.

So there's a lot more detail on service-based enumeration on our website. If I can be helpful, I'm happy to share that with Dina and colleagues. But we encourage persons to get enumerated when we come out and do the special SBE operation. And there is a -- there is quality control on data for many different households.

So we will do some quality checks on our data too because you can imagine some other household, say the mom fills out the form, and then the dad's on the bus and he's like, oh, let me fill out the form. And so you just had two responses from the household. So there's moments in time where we'll get two responses from a household. So we have procedures to manage that.

And then what was the second part of the question?

Caila Prendergast: Just generally, how do you go about counting people who are staying in shelters and then children? Do you go to the shelter, or how does that work?

Robin Bachman: We do. We do, and we work with the administrators to do that. And we do it over a period of three days. There's -- if you go to our site, if you search homelessness or search service-based enumeration, there's a lot of content up on the site, including some advance letters that we have been sending to administrators of facilities to help get ready to do the count.

Caila Prendergast: Great. Thanks. So I -- it is 3:00 o'clock. So we only have a few more questions. So I think we can get through that in a few more minutes, if folks want to stay on the line.

One of the questions is, "Does a person need to be a resident, or are non-residents counted as well?" And I imagine by that question they mean U.S. citizens. Yeah.

Robin Bachman: Yeah. No. That's -- anyone living in the United States should be counted and should fill out the form. So does not matter about status. As long as they're living here, they should fill out the census. And so we don't ask immigration status on the form, and so citizen, non-citizen. If you're living here, you should be counted if you were living here on April 1st.

Caila Prendergast: Okay. Great. So what if a person refuses to participate in the census?

Robin Bachman: Well, one, my answer back to that is I'm hoping trusted voices like you all will help convince the respondents that it's safe, easy, and important because, if the person doesn't participate and we miss them in the data, that's -- that person's missing for ten whole years. And so the importance of the data is significant for so many reasons. So we're hoping that our ad campaign and the trusted voices like yours will help convince many that please do that form.

If we don't -- if we don't get a response, we'll go and do door knocking. So we've found that the fact that we actually show up in person at the house sometimes helps the person decide to go ahead and do self-response on their own.

And then at the end of the day we have to -- we're required by law to count everyone, and so we will -- we will employ other procedures to make sure that we get somebody counted. And that includes taking a proxy from a neighbor or from a postal service, the gentleman or lady who drops off the mail. So we have to count everyone. So we -- self-response is ideal and what we encourage, but we will count everybody.

Caila Prendergast: Okay. Thanks, Robin. I think that's all the questions that I'm seeing. I want to thank everyone for joining today.

Dina, I'm not sure if you have any other closing you want to say. Oh, it looks like she had to step off. Okay.

Well, thanks, everyone, again for logging on, and we'll follow up on those questions that we addressed throughout the webinar.

Robin Bachman: Thank you, and thanks ConnectHomeUSA and the Public Housing Authority colleagues who are on here. I truly appreciate everything you're doing and your attention today. Let us know how we might be helpful, and if there's ways that you can do to help us to get a full and complete count, thank you so much. We really appreciate it.

Caila Prendergast: All right. Thanks.

Robin Bachman: Bye-bye.

Caila Prendergast: Bye, everyone.

(END)