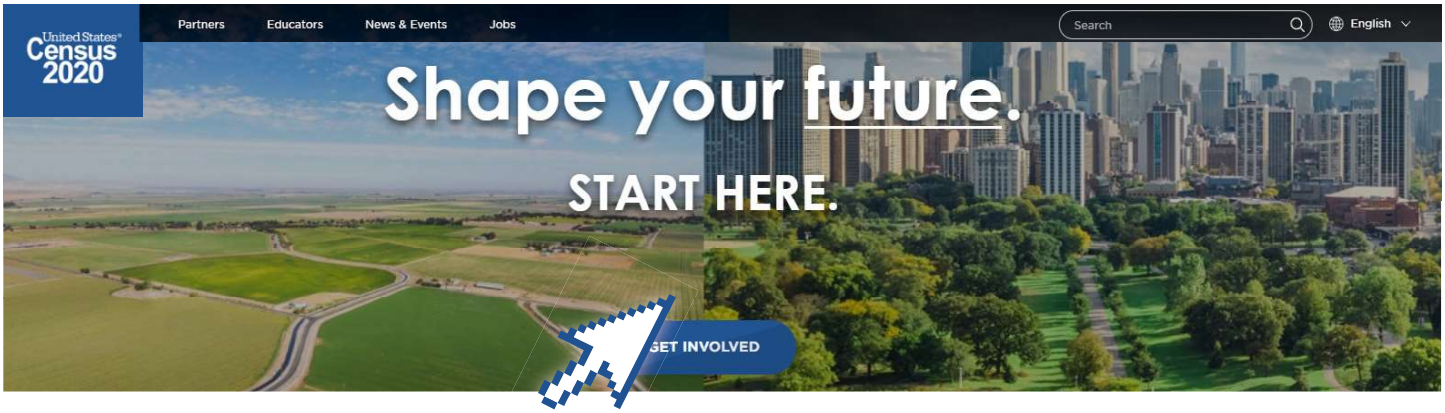

Responding to the 2020 Census without a Census ID

The 2020 Census will be the first time that the public can respond online or by phone, in addition to the traditional paper response. Technology improvements over the last decade that allow for these secure response options also enable the public to respond without a Census Bureau-issued identification number—making it easier to respond anytime, anywhere.

Beginning in mid-March 2020, everyone will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. That invitation will include a unique Census ID that links you to a physical address. But you can also respond online or by phone without a Census ID.

How do I respond without an ID?

On the 2020 Census response website, select the link under the login button that says, "If you do not have a Census ID, click here."

Can I respond online without an ID on any device or browser?

Yes. Responding online without an ID works on most modern devices. For best results use the two latest versions of the following browsers: Internet Explorer, Edge, Chrome, Safari, Firefox, Samsung Native.

Is my response affected if I don't use a Census ID?

Your Census ID allows us to immediately match your response to an address. If you respond without your Census ID, we'll ask you for your address when you respond so we can link your response to your address.

How do I provide my address?

When responding online without an ID, there are three options for entering an address:

1) STREET ADDRESS

For this option, you will be prompted to enter an address number, street name, and either the city and state or the ZIP Code. If a valid street address isn't available, check the box that says, "I do not have a street address" and you can proceed to enter a rural route address or other address/location (see options below).

2) RURAL ROUTE ADDRESS

A rural route address includes a rural route descriptor, rural route number, rural route box ID number, city and state or ZIP Code.

3) OTHER ADDRESS/PHYSICAL LOCATION

If you do not have a rural route address, the system will first ask if you are experiencing homelessness. Then, it will invite you to enter a city, state, ZIP Code, and description of the physical place where you live.

If I live or stay in a garage or added structure at a property, how do I respond?

To respond with a physical location on a property that does not have a separate address, utilize the "Street Address" option, enter the address, and include the description of the structure (e.g., "garage") in the apartment/unit number field. If you reply by phone, you will be prompted to provide the same description.

How do I respond for multiple people or families at a single address?

Everyone living or staying at an address, even if they are not a member of your family, should be counted by the person filling out the census form for that address. There are no restrictions on the number of people who can be included on your form. The Census Bureau has ways to resolve duplicate responses if multiple people at the same address respond separately.