THE 2020 U.S. CENSUS: ALASKA NATIVES COUNT –

APRIL 1 IS CENSUS DAY!

The 2020 Census is more than a population count. It’s an opportunity to shape the future of the Alaska Native community. Please help us ensure Native communities, families, and individuals are accurately counted by following three easy steps. Billions of federal dollars are at stake. #AlaskaNativesCount #ThreeSteps

Step 1: Fill out the form at

www.census.gov

Did you know that the U.S. Constitution requires a census of the population every 10 years? Or that the form has less than 10 questions (most of which are so basic that it’ll take you about 10 minutes to complete)? Or that by filling out the census form you’ll help determine how billions of federal dollars are spent over the next 10 years? YES, YES, and YES! This is why it’s so important for Alaska Natives to participate in the 2020 Census. Please fill out the form.

- Alaska receives almost $3.5 billion dollars annually in based on census data.
- If you’re Alaska Native, but you’re not counted, your community could lose almost $3,500 annually for tribal programs such as Head Start, SNAP, TANF, and WIC.
- If a Native family of four isn’t counted, your community could lose about $14,000 annually.
Did you also know that your answers are strictly confidential? YES! Federal law prohibits sharing your information with anyone, including the IRS—or using your answers against you (by example, to determine eligibility for government benefits such as SNAP, TANF, or WIC).

**Step Two: Be Strategic About ‘Person 1’**

Did you know that question 5 dictates whether your household will be counted as ‘Native’ or not? YES! If ‘Person 1’ says he or she is ‘American Indian or Alaska Native,’ then the entire household is counted as one with a Native head of household. That’s why it’s so important for Alaska Native families to be strategic about who they list as ‘Person 1.’ **If you’re Native, and you live in a mixed Native and non-Native (White) household—whether you’re a spouse or significant other—please list the Native person as ‘Person 1.’**

- ‘Person 1’ doesn’t have to be male.
- ‘Person 1’ doesn’t have to pay more than half of the household expenses.
- Either spouse or significant other can be listed as ‘Person 1.’
However, Native families should list the Native spouse or significant other as ‘Person 1’ to maximize federal funding to tribal communities and programs.

Three: Know Your ‘Tribe’

Did you know that question 9 asks you about your ‘race’ and ‘tribal affiliation?’ Or that how you answer these questions determines how much federal funding goes to tribal programs? YES and YES! That’s why it’s so important for Alaska Native families and individuals to know their tribe(s). Please list the name of your federally recognized tribe, as opposed to your regional or village corporation, if you’re Native.

If you can’t remember the name for your tribe, you can write in the name of your village. You can even write in more than one tribe (or village) if you associate with more than one.

Click here to find the name of your tribe or village.
• Each person listed on your family’s form can identify as one or more races.
• By example, if one of your parents is non-Native (White) and the other is Native, you can check both the ‘White’ and ‘American Indian or Alaska Native’ boxes. If you do this, you’ll be counted as both White and Native. However, if you only check the box for ‘American Indian or Alaska Native,’ you will only be counted Native.
• Please check the ‘American Indian or Alaska Native box’ if you’re Native, regardless of whether you check any other box.

• **Other Resources**

  • [2020 Census and Confidentiality](#) – fact sheet
  • [Alaska Counts 2020](#) – more information about Census 2020 and helpful resources
  • [Helpful short videos on how to answer Questions 5 and 9 available here](#). Videos in English and Yup’ik.