



Statement from Children's Defense Fund-Ohio Regarding the President's Memorandum Another Attempt to Redefine Who Counts and Undermine the 2020 Census

The U.S. Constitution is clear, everyone living in the United States-- every child, every adult, everyone-- is to be counted as part of the decennial census. As of today, we have made incredible progress in standing strong and protecting the census and an accurate count of all individuals living in this country.

The memorandum released by the President on July 21st does not change the Census or our efforts to secure a complete count. However, it attempts to layer on a process that would manipulate census data after its collection for the purposes of congressional redistricting and apportionment. We stand with our partners in calling this action contrary to federal law and unconstitutional.

The President's memorandum does not fundamentally change who counts in the census, who responds to the census, what questions are included in the census, or the privacy provisions that protect the individual census responses. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the field operations of the census have been extended and we must continue to use this time to make sure that all our children, families, and communities are counted throughout the Buckeye State. It is crucial to know how many people are living in a community when planning for hospitals, roads, and other important services. A complete count benefits every local community.

2020 Census Facts

- The 2020 Census does not ask for citizenship or immigration status.
- Census responses are kept confidential and secure for 72 years. They are protected by federal law and can only be seen by the Census Bureau to produce anonymous statistics. They cannot be shared with ICE, police, landlords, state or federal agencies, or anyone else. And, it will not affect any public benefits.
- The Constitution requires the census to count everyone living in the United States. There is no exception for citizenship or immigration status.
- Federal law requires all adults to respond to the census (the census asks for one response per household). There is no exception for citizenship or immigration status.

We believe that communities grow stronger when we count everyone. An accurate count means that states and communities receive their fair share of federal resources supporting critical services like health care, child care, education services, transportation, and the list goes on. Further, it helps our communities plan for services like health care clinics, by knowing how many people live in a neighborhood or region. When we are all counted, it means that our community's voices are heard and secures full and fair representation in Congress and in our state and local government.

The census is important, it's easy, it's safe - and it's also for everyone. Everyone counts.

Children's Defense Fund-Ohio

For over 30 years, Children's Defense Fund-Ohio has championed policies and programs that lift children out of poverty and place all Ohio children on a path to successful adulthood. To support children and families in Ohio, CDF-Ohio works to improve healthcare access and health outcomes for children and their families, stop the push out of students from our schools due to school discipline practices, create a juvenile justice system that rehabilitates our youth and reduces recidivism, build a high quality and stable early childhood care and education system, and harness the statewide and national CDF youth and community networks to change the lives of Ohio's children.