

I COUNT!



What is the Census? Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau counts every person living in the country. Each household needs to fill out the form to count every person who lives there, whether they are related or not.

When is the 2020 Census? This spring! Census Day is officially April 1, 2020, but you may start completing the census questionnaire in March.

Why does it matter? If we don't count everyone in Virginia, we could miss out on

funding we need for programs that help children in foster care, schools, Medicaid, and other programs and services we all depend on. Virginia will lose about \$2,000 per person who is not counted — each year for 10 years!

Virginia could miss out on \$20,000 in funding for each person not counted!

Young children and children in foster care are often missed in the Census, so here are some tips to ensure everyone is counted:

If you are a foster parent: Even though foster care placements are temporary, if you have a child in your home on April 1, count that child as part of your household.

If you are an adoptive parent: Please count ALL children in your home, including the child you adopted.

If you are pregnant or have an infant: Parents should count all babies born on or before April 1, 2020, even if they are still in the hospital.

If your child splits time between two homes, for example divorced parents: Count the child where he/she lives most often. If the child spends an equal amount of time between homes, count the location on April 1. Don't forget to coordinate with other caregivers!

How do you fill out the Census? Every household will receive mail in March asking you to fill out the brief Census questionnaire. The letter will give you instructions for each of these options:

- 1) on the computer or on your smartphone (you will need an internet connection) *OR*
- 2) talking to someone over the phone *OR*
- 3) filling out and mailing back the paper survey