



COVID-19 and the 2020 U.S. Census

United States
**Census
2020**

**Census-funded programs need a complete count to
keep Arkansas moving forward during Covid-19.**

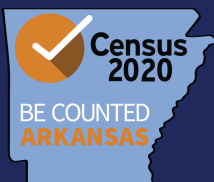
Every year, roughly \$7.5 billion in federal resources are distributed in Arkansas communities based on census data. Now, more than ever, these investments are needed to build and maintain a strong economy in our state.

Participating in the 2020 U.S. Census this year will help ensure our communities receive funding for hospitals, schools, fire departments, police protection, and to assist in our recovery when the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

If we are not counted now, in cases such as this pandemic, our communities will continue to feel the impact over the next decade. Municipalities struggling with undercounts and with existing gaps in funding for their population during times of distress — such as we are experiencing now — are left with even less.

That is why it is critical to **tell #20for2020** and spread the message that it has never been easier and more accessible to respond to the census on your own — **online at My2020Census.gov, over the phone at 844-330-2020, or by mail**. All Arkansans can complete the census survey safely and without having to meet someone in person.

It only takes a few minutes to ensure we bring the resources residents are counting on to address the COVID-19 crisis. So let's shape our future in Arkansas. **Get Out the Count for the 2020 U.S. Census.**



Tell #20for2020 to complete the census. Let's ensure #ARCounts!

During the COVID-19 crisis, more Arkansans are relying on essential programs. Many of these programs are funded in part by a complete and accurate census count. A few examples are provided below.

Healthcare

Medicaid, Medicare, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Nearly 850,000 Arkansans receive medical care through Medicaid and CHIP, and an additional 630,000 residents are enrolled in Medicare, which provides essential healthcare services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Food Security

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Women, Infant and Children program (WIC); and other USDA Child and Adult Care Food Programs

According to the Department of Human Services, SNAP food applications increased from 21,000 in February to more than 39,000 in March, largely in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Local food service providers, such as the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, are seeking a boost of maximum SNAP benefits by 15% in order to serve the anticipated uptick in families seeking relief.

Housing and Utility Assistance

Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP, which provides financial assistance to approximately 60,000 households each year to help them meet the costs of home energy (e.g., gas, electricity, and propane), has been funded at \$900 million through the CARE Act to help low-income households pay their heating and cooling bills during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Employer Support

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

\$12 million in block grant funding and up to \$4 million from the quick-action fund provide bridge loans to help midsize companies and nonprofits remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Complete the census
online at **My2020Census.gov!**