



Attention Tribal Members

The 2020 Census is upon us. Native Americans feel like they don't count. And they might not be wrong — we are the most undercounted group on the U.S. census, which means they get significantly less of much needed funding from crucial federal programs, scant improvements on reservation infrastructure and health care, and even the loss of political representation.

Our method or (TEA) Type of Enumeration of being counted will be through a mail form or online

The Census is a keystone of our representative government. It measures the population so that seats in the US House of Representatives can be correctly divided among the states. It also is used in redistricting to draw the lines that link representatives to their constituents for the next ten years. Past undercounts of Native populations have deprived hundreds of thousands of Native Americans of their voice in government.

Over \$1.5 trillion of federal money is allocated across the country each year based on census data, according to new research from George Washington University is tied to the census. The government calculates each geographic area's level of education, income/poverty, and more to determine their funding level. Census numbers provide the base figures used in these formulas. This process determines the amount of funding provided to communities like ours for programs like health care, infrastructure, housing, and education.

Our constitution requires that every person in the United States be counted—it is the basis of equal representation. However certain populations typically are undercounted, especially, minorities, people in poverty, people living in non-traditional homes, people who speak a different language than English, and youth. One quarter of Native Americans live in areas described by the census as 'hard to count. But, ultimately, the burden of getting an accurate count largely falls on the undercounted communities themselves.

An inaccurate count has far-reaching effects most-often carried by our most vulnerable citizens. **"Being counted is an exercise of our tribal sovereignty,"** "If we aren't going to be counted, how are they going to live up to fulfilling treaty rights?" Accurate census data provides crucial information for research and planning purposes, directing fair funding allotments for the federal programs that are vital to rural and Native American populations and enabling the enforcement of federal nondiscrimination laws.

Most respectfully,

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community