



IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT THE US CENSUS CAMPAIGN

March 8, 2010

Dear Consumers, Families, Regional Centers, and Developmental Centers:

The 2010 United States (U.S.) Census campaign is underway to count all residents of the U.S., including people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and non-citizens. The census information is critical to the fair distribution of federal and state dollars. Billions of dollars could be directed to California for community services, roads and transportation, and hospitals, which is why it is important to be counted.

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is partnering with the U.S. Census to ensure that people with developmental disabilities can participate and are counted. The census questionnaire is only 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. It is confidential and safe. Individual answers and information are not shared with any other government agency. If forms are not mailed back, a "census taker" will visit consumers' homes from April to May to ask for census information. If a consumer is not living in the home of a family member but in another residential setting, they will be counted where they live. This is done in order to avoid duplication.

For developmental centers, group homes and nursing/skilled nursing facilities, the U.S. Census identifies these residential settings as "group quarters." The U.S. Census recognizes that the residents may not be able to provide their own information, and administrative records can be used to verify the population. If the judgment is made that administrative records are best used, then the service provider will take the same oath of confidentiality as the census takers, before assisting in responding for the residents. If individual reporting is chosen as the option, the census taker will use a special form for individual response.

Below is a flyer which explains the importance of completing the census questionnaire. Please print it out, display it at work or home, and share it with others. We are asking you to please use the flyer to inform consumers about the census, what it means and how to complete the form.

[Consumer Friendly Flyer](#) (PDF)

CENSUS RESOURCES

- [California Complete Count](#) - California's main site for Census outreach
- [Census e-Center](#) - California specific information and to download posters, bookmarks and other educational materials.
- [Sample Questionnaire](#) - Large Print Accessible Guide
- [Sample English/Spanish Questionnaire](#)
- [2010 Census Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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For assistance with the questionnaire, please call the U.S. Census toll free at 1-866-872-6868 or visit the [U. S. Census](#) web site for more information.

If you have additional questions about the DDS' partnership with the 2010 Census, please contact Nancy Lungren at (916) 654-1820, send an email to nancy.lungren@dds.ca.gov, or visit the DDS web site: www.dds.ca.gov/census/.

Thank you for helping make every Californian Count!

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