

It's time. Make yourself count.



Census 2010

Women and the 2010 Census

The Constitution requires a count of every person living in the United States once every ten years. The 2010 census will influence the health, well-being and political influence of American women, their families and their communities for the next 10 years. Most households will receive a census form in the mail in mid-March; it should be completed and mailed back by April 1.

The census influences the distribution of more than \$400 billion every year in federal funds for programs in education, health care, community services, economic development and more. In addition, census data are used by state and local governments and private corporations to guide investments in transportation, restaurants, shopping centers and other types of economic development. Census information guides planning that can have a major impact on the educational and economic opportunities available to women, and it helps the government evaluate the effectiveness of programs designed to promote equal opportunity.

- **Political Power** – The census shapes voting districts, which can determine whether or not communities are fairly represented in Congress, state legislatures and local governments. The census is also used to monitor whether people have access to the voting booth.
- **Education** – Billions of dollars in education funding are distributed based on census information.
- **Health care** – Census information is used to target federal health care funds and guides government and private planning for the location of hospitals and other health services.
- **Jobs** – The census influences the distribution of community development block grants and is used by governments and private companies to decide where to invest in new housing, roads, and shopping centers. Census information also helps the government monitor discrimination and enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

It's important for every woman to be counted in the 2010 census. And since young children are among the most at risk for being missed in the census, it's important for women with children to be sure that every one of their children is counted. For every woman or child who is not counted, their community will lose urgently needed resources over the next 10 years.

Here are a few of the federally funded programs important to women that are affected by the census.

- **Health and Nutrition** - Access to affordable health care is vital to women's well-being. Women require more health services than men during their reproductive years, have higher out-of-pocket medical costs, and have lower average incomes.
- **Medicaid** - Medicaid is a \$197 billion federal-state insurance program that provides health coverage to low-income families and individuals, including children, parents, seniors, and people with disabilities. Nearly half of Medicaid recipients are children and three-quarters of the adult Medicaid population are women, including women who are pregnant, mothers of children who are 18 years or under, women who are disabled, and women over 65. More than half of women ages 18 to 65 years old on Medicaid are considered "poor" under federal guidelines.
- **WIC** - The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a more than \$6 billion program that provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. In fiscal year 2009, more than 2 million women and more than 6.9 million children up to age five participated in the WIC program.

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- **The State Children's Insurance Program** - SCHIP is a \$5.5 billion program designed to reduce the number of uninsured children by providing subsidized insurance to children of the working poor. The program covered 7.4 million children in 2008. In five months since the program was expanded, in the middle of a deep recession, at least 13 states have invested millions of dollars to cover 250,000 more children.
- **Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant** - Funded through the Department of Health and Human Services, more than \$500 million in Maternal and Child Health Services block grants support state efforts to extend and improve health and welfare services for mothers and children. Among the services supported by the program are access to prenatal care for women, child immunization, and assessment, diagnosis and care for children with special needs.
- **Caregiver Support** - Millions of people provide care for a chronically ill, disabled or aged family member or friend. By one estimate, 60 and 75 percent of family caregivers are women. The \$144 million National Family Caregiver Support Program provides grants to states and territories based on their share of residents aged 70 and over to fund a range of supports that assist family and informal caregivers to care for their loved ones at home for as long as possible.
- **Domestic Violence Prevention and Services** - The Department of Health and Human Services provides nearly \$100 million to assist states and tribal governments in the prevention of family violence and the provision of immediate shelter and related assistance for victims of family violence and their dependents.
- **Affordable housing** - Access to affordable housing is an urgent priority for many women. About a quarter of single mothers spend more than half of their income on housing.
 - **Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers** - More than \$16 billion was spent in fiscal year 2007 for Housing Choice Vouchers designed to help very low-income families secure affordable privately owned rental housing. Together, the voucher and certificate programs help more than 1.4 million households in the United States. In 2008, 80 percent of Section 8 households were headed by women, and 48 percent of those households included children.
- **Education**
 - **Head Start** is a \$6.18 billion federal preschool program intended to enhance the health and school readiness of America's poor children. Head Start is a child development program designed to help break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs.

Making Women Count

The Leadership Conference Education Fund is working with national and state partner organizations to make sure that every woman is counted in the 2010 census. For more information on how to ensure that women and all members of their households -- especially children -- are included in the census, visit

www.civilrights.org/census.