

## Census 2010 Q&A

### **Q. Why should I fill out and return the census form?**

A. For at least two good reasons. First, if you don't, you're giving away millions of dollars that will benefit you, your family and your community over the next 10 years.

### **Q. What do you mean? I haven't given away anything.**

A. We all "give" money that we pay through federal or state related fees or taxes. By completing the census forms, we ensure that we receive our fair return of both the state and federal funding pies. For each person counted in Pima County, the region receives approximately \$1,000 in federal funding annually, or \$40,000 for a family of four over 10 years. Pima County receives an additional \$1,500 per capita each year in state-shared revenues based on our population.

### **Q. So it's all about money?**

A. No. It's about the services that money can buy. We pay state and federal taxes so that we can have police and fire protection, courts and jails to manage our criminal justice system, paved roads, a public transportation system, schools for our children, affordable housing for low income families, prenatal care for expectant mothers, and a variety of other health and social services. Our taxes buy us a safe environment and a high standard of living. But the formula for calculating the amount each community gets for these services is based largely on the size of the community. Each year the federal government sends over \$400 billion to communities mostly based upon their population size.

### **Q. So what happens if I don't fill out the form and I'm not counted?**

A. Our piece of the pie will shrink. Our population will appear to be smaller than it actually is. As a result, we will receive less money to build and repair roads or operate an efficient court system and jails; we will reduce our ability to help those who need job training, health and housing assistance and other essential social services. The amount of money provided by the County to nonprofit agencies that help our citizens will be reduced. It's our money; it should be used to help our community.

### **Q. You said there were at least two good reasons. What's the other one?**

A. The larger our population, the larger our congressional delegation. If our population grows, we get to elect more members to represent us in Congress. Filling out the simple, 10-question census form ultimately gives your family and our community a stronger voice in Washington.

### **Q. Do I have to be a citizen?**

A. No. The Constitution says we are to count all persons residing in the U.S. The census is not a test of citizenship or national identity.

**Q. How do our schools benefit from the collection of census data?**

A. The census data are very helpful to school planners in deciding where we can provide educational services at the lowest cost and for the maximum benefit to all families.

**Q. What benefits do I receive as a business from filling out the census form?**

A. Your community's economic development plans and programs use census data extensively to market Pima County and Tucson to attract new businesses and investment. These data play a crucial role in efforts to sell our community to new residents and businesses.

Additionally, these data assist our programs to attract Community Development Block Grant monies, HUD program grants and other sources of funding to assist our housing of the poor. These are dollars local businesses did not have to pay in additional taxes.

**Q. As a major employer and major facility in the downtown Tucson area, how will the University of Arizona benefit from the collection of census data?**

A. Census data form one of the major research databases for both local researchers, grant writers and public agencies (recreation, parks, housing, neighborhood renovation, private corporations and large public institutions, such as the University of Arizona.)

**Census 2010 Talking Points**

- Census questionnaire has 10 questions
- Forms will be mailed in March 2010
- Forms should be returned by mail by April 1, 2010
- For each person counted, the region receives \$1,000 in federal funding annually, or \$40,000 for a family of four over 10 years
- Pima County receives an additional \$1,500 per capita each year in state-shared revenues
- The greater the amount of money returning to the region means, for example, that the library system can purchase more books. For \$1,000, the library can purchase approximately 10 hard cover children's readers
- The form asks questions about age, race, gender, home ownership and number and relationship of all people living in the household, including children and anyone staying in the home
- The census count is required by the U.S. constitution in order to help determine representative in the U.S. House of Representatives
- Information gathered on the census forms remains confidential and personal information is not shared with anyone
- Immigration status is not questioned These dollars fund important critical community services, including police and fire protection, schools, parks, libraries, health care, road and public transportation improvements, and senior and community centers.
- For more information, visit [www.pagCensus.com](http://www.pagCensus.com)