



*A Home for Everyone*

# Census Training for Homeless Service Providers

March 3, 2010

*The Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness saves lives and improves the quality of life for everyone by leading an effective and cost efficient new way to end homelessness.*

# Special Guests

## **Laura L. Carroll**

National Partnership Specialist  
U.S. Census Bureau

## **Carmelo Echevarria**

Group Quarters Supervisor  
U.S. Census Bureau

## **Betsy Benito**

Projects Administrator, Ten-Year Plan to  
End Homelessness  
Chicago Department of Family and Support  
Services



*A Home for Everyone*

# What is the 2010 Census?

The Constitution requires that a census, a nationwide count of every person residing in the United States, be held every ten years.

## Who is counted?

- The census counts every person who lives in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico and Guam.
- The census counts both citizens and non-citizens, including undocumented immigrants.
- Even those people who don't have traditional "homes" are counted, like people who are homeless, prison inmates, and residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities.



*A Home for Everyone*

# Census Timeline

- **2009:** Census employees went door-to-door across the country to update the master address file.
- **March 2010:** Census forms are mailed to all addresses.
- **April 2010:** If census forms are not returned, a reminder and an additional census form are mailed to that address.
- **May – July 2010:** If the census form is still not returned, a census employee will visit the address in person.



*A Home for Everyone*

# What Does the Census Form Ask?

1. How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2010?
2. Were there any additional people staying here on April 1, 2010 that you did not include in Question 1?
3. Is this house owned or rented?
4. What is your telephone number?



*A Home for Everyone*

# What Does the Census Form Ask?

5. Please provide information for each person living here. What is Person 1's name?
6. What is Person 1's sex?
7. What is Person 1's age and date of birth?
8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?
9. What is Person 1's race?
10. Does Person 1 sometimes live or stay somewhere else?



*A Home for Everyone*

# What's at Stake in the 2010 Census

- Distribution of more than **\$400 billion** annually in federal funds (**\$14 billion to Illinois**).
- Representation in U.S. Congress.
- Boundaries of Congressional and state legislative districts.
- Determination of communities eligible for housing assistance and rehab loans.
- Forecasting of future transportation needs.



*A Home for Everyone*

# Counting People Who Are Homeless

Counting people experiencing homelessness presents **one of the most significant challenges** faced by the Census Bureau.

Our community has a lot to gain or lose in the 2010 Census. That is why we need to make sure everyone is counted.



*A Home for Everyone*

# Service Based Enumeration

- A **special three-day operation** specifically designed to count people who might be missed during the traditional count of housing units and group quarters.
- The Chicago Alliance and DFSS have provided the Census Bureau with up-to-date information about Chicago's homeless system, including **shelter facilities** and **outdoor locations**.



*A Home for Everyone*

# First Night: Monday, March 29

Enumerators will count persons **residing in shelters**, including:

- Emergency shelters
- Shelters for homeless children and youth
- Domestic violence shelters
- Transitional shelters (Interim Housing)
- Hotels and motels



*A Home for Everyone*

# Second Night: Tuesday, March 30

Enumerators will interview persons at regularly scheduled **mobile food vans** and persons at **soup kitchens**.

If individuals at the mobile food vans and soup kitchens report a “usual residence,” they are not included in this count and instead are included in the general population count.



*A Home for Everyone*

# Third Night: Wednesday, March 31

Enumerators will count persons at pre-identified targeted **non-sheltered outdoor locations** where people experiencing homelessness are known to be living. The count will happen between 12 am and 7 am.

As we know from the Point in Time Count, there are **inherent challenges** in counting people who are homeless. That is why we need to **encourage our clients** to participate in the 2010 Census.



*A Home for Everyone*

# Be Counted Program

- **Be Counted site:** A public location where people who feel they have not been counted can pick up an unaddressed form.
- This is an opportunity for people without conventional housing to complete a form and be included in the final census.
- Sites will be open from **March 19 – April 19.**
- Some sites will be designated a **Questionnaire Assistance Center** where people can receive assistance directly from census employees.



*A Home for Everyone*

# Language Barriers

- Census forms are available in five languages in addition to English: **Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Russian.**
- The Census Bureau will mail English/Spanish **bilingual forms** to tracts with a high concentration of Spanish-speaking households.
- Other language forms are available by request by calling the Telephone Questionnaire Assistance line or by visiting a Be Counted site.
- Language assistance guides are available in **50 languages online** and in 22 languages by calling the Telephone Questionnaire Assistance line.



# Privacy Concerns

- All census responses are **confidential and protected by law**. No individual or government agency can have access to any individual information.
- It is a **felony** for a Census Bureau employee to **disclose confidential census information** – the penalty is imprisonment and a hefty fine.
- The Census Bureau never publicly identifies any residence as a group home and **does not publish statistics** about the number of people in **domestic violence** shelters.



*A Home for Everyone*

# How Can My Clients Be Counted?

- *If your client does not receive a census form in the mail, call the Telephone Questionnaire Assistance Center.*
- *If your client is experiencing homelessness, he/she should be counted at the residence in which he/she is staying on April 1, 2010.*
- *If your client is living in a group location like a shelter, he/she should be counted at the group location.*
- *If your client is living with friends or family in a traditional housing unit, he/she should be added to that household's census form.*



*A Home for Everyone*

# Creative Ways to Encourage Participation

- Find ways to incentivize census participation.
- Add census information to current programming, like meetings, trainings, and educational activities.
- Organize a census kick-off event.
- Include census information as part of your intake procedures.
- Post the sample census form.
- Create visibility at your office and in your neighborhood.



*A Home for Everyone*

# Creative Ways to Encourage Participation

- Promote Be Counted and Questionnaire Assistance sites.
- Promote the toll-free numbers to call for help.
- Use staff meetings to raise awareness of the census among staff.
- Recruit staff members to be core volunteers for census outreach activities.
- Consider setting up a temporary census assistance center in your facility if you have space.
- Encourage friends and colleagues at other service organizations to get engaged.



*A Home for Everyone*

# Outreach to Landlords

- Tenants/residents using a **rental subsidy** in private market residential properties are considered a “**typical living situation.**”
- People who reside in permanent supportive housing developments also fall into this category.
- We are encouraging agencies that provide scattered-site permanent housing assistance to **post Census posters or flyers** in the buildings in their portfolios.
- This may involve contacting the landlords, but will not involve door knocking to other residents.



# Helpful Resources

## Chicago Regional Office

(312) 454-2700

## Telephone Questionnaire Assistance Center

(866) 872-6868

## In-Language Census Materials

<http://2010.census.gov/partners/materials/inlanguage.php>



*A Home for Everyone*