

FAQ's

Get Out the Count Video Prize Challenge

1. How has the COVID-19 affected the Census or this Prize Challenge?

Most people have already received a mailer from the U.S. Census Bureau with information about how to complete the Census online at 2020census.gov. Encourage those who have received their invitation to respond online as soon as they receive it.

Key message to incorporate into videos: It has never been easier to respond on your own, either online, by phone, or by mail, without having to meet a census taker.

The U.S. Census Bureau has released statements on its [response to COVID-19](#), and [announced](#) modifications to Group Quarters operations, which counts people in nursing homes, college dorms, prisons and other institutional living facilities. Please [check back here](#) for additional news and details on the 2020 Census and COVID-19.

Everyone is encouraged to respond online, via phone or by mail, as soon as they receive their invitation with the provided instructions and web address for the online questionnaire (my2020census.gov). Filling out the census now will reduce the chances of an enumerator knocking on your door in the future.

2. Which hashtag or URL should I direct people to?

Please direct viewers to 2020census.gov, or to call 1-844-330-2020 (English) or 1-844-468-2020 (Spanish).

Some optional hashtags are: #ShapeOurFuture #standupbecounted #2020Census #countmein #icount #wecount #cuentaconmigo #cometoyourcensus

3.

4. When are the submissions due?

Submissions are due April 17th at 11:59pm EDT.

5. In what format should the videos be submitted?

Videos must be 30 seconds to 3 minutes in length, and must be in a compatible YouTube format with the proper codecs: WebM files, MPEG4, 3GPP, MOV, AVI, MPEGPS, WMV, FLV with suggested aspect of 16:9.

6. Do I need to be a pro filmmaker to submit a video?

No! As long as videos are accurate, engaging, and meet the requirements on challenge.gov, we encourage both professional and amateur content creators to submit videos. That includes high school and college students, too!

Does my video need to be professionally filmed/ edited?

Not at all! You can film and edit your video submissions on your phone or any other professional film equipment.

7. I'm a student. Can I submit work for the grand prize and student prize opportunity?

Yes, you are eligible for both. We will ask you for proof of student status if you win the student prize.

8. How old do I need to be to participate?

You must be at least 13 years of age to apply; minors under the age of 18 may apply but must submit a consent form signed by a parent or guardian. You can obtain one by emailing census.accelerate@census.gov.

9. Can I share the video publicly during the submission period?

Yes, as long as it's accurate and follows our messaging guidance, we encourage you to share your video as widely as possible.

10. How can I make sure my video is accurate?

Please take a look at key facts and resources [here](#). You can also visit 2020census.gov for additional factsheets and information. We encourage you to direct any questions or clarifications to census.accelerate@census.gov. We will also offer a webinar where you can learn more and ask questions. Stay tuned to this webpage for details, or email us to make sure you get the invite!

11. Do I need to upload my video to YouTube?

YouTube is the preferred platform for sharing, but you may use a different platform that is compliant with standards listed on challenge.gov, and wherever you believe your video will be most visible. You MUST submit a complete application, including answers to the required questions and a link to your video. Please see the "How to Enter" section on challenge.gov.

12. Can I submit more than one video?

Yes.

13. When will the winners be announced?

Winners will be announced in May.

14. Can I apply with my company or creative group?

Yes. In the case of a private entity, it must be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States, and in the case of an individual, whether participating singly or in a group, must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States or U.S. territories.

Applicants may not be a Federal entity or Federal employee acting within the scope of their employment or an employee of the U.S. Census Bureau. View the full eligibility rules on [challenge.gov](https://www.challenge.gov).

Census data impacts so many community needs — including funding for emergency services, health care, school lunch programs, SNAP, and more. Even in these challenging times, it has never been easier to respond to the census on your own, either online, by phone, or by mail, without having to meet a census taker.

Anyone — from students to amateur content creators to professional filmmakers — can submit a short video about why it matters. And you can do all this from home.

This is a nationwide call for the most impactful, accurate, inspiring, funny, creative, and culturally relevant videos to educate the masses about the 2020 Census and mobilize communities to respond, reminding them that it's not too late to self-respond online, by phone or by mail. Census response impacts so many of the community needs we're directly feeling - funding for emergency services, health care, school lunch programs, SNAP, and more.