Census FAQs

If you have any other questions regarding the Census please call 212-533-2541 to make an appointment with a Counselor at GOLES! Our offices are located at 173 Avenue B.

- Why is the Census important? The Census determines the funding that NYCHA, Section 8, senior housing, and our schools receive, how many elected officials represent us, and it shows the power and strength of our community.
- Does my response really make a difference? YES! The LES is an undercounted neighborhood. Every person counted in the Census leads to more funding, investment, and representation for the LES.
- How long does it take me to fill out the Census form? It takes you only 10 minutes to answer 10 questions that determine the next 10 years.
- How do I respond to the Census? You can respond using your phone, online, or paper via mail. Most LES households will get a piece of mail with their online registration code for the Census - make sure you don’t throw away that code! You will not be given a paper Census form until your 4th mailed Census reminder. It is best to fill out the online Census before that last reminder and if you have any questions about the Census, then you can make an appointment with GOLES!
- What is the timeline for the Census? The Census starts on March 12th and ends July 31st.
- What information is not asked about in the Census? You will never be asked about Social Security, bank or credit card information, money or donations, or any political questions.
- This seems like a lot of personal information. Do I need to fill in my name? Yes, the name question on your Census MUST be filled in and cannot be left blank, but you can write whatever name you feel comfortable writing on the form. You can fill in your legal name, a nickname, or a made-up name.
- Will law enforcement get my Census data? No. Law enforcement will never have access to your Census data. It is illegal. Sharing Census data results in a $250,000 fine, 5 years in prison, or both.
- Is there a Citizenship question on the Census? No. There is no question that asks about citizenship or immigration status on the Census. All people living in your household regardless of immigration status count! No Census information will be shared with ICE or DHS.
- I am undocumented, do I get counted? Yes! Every person regardless of immigration status counts. There are no questions about immigration status in the Census.
- Can my Census information be shared with NYCHA or my landlord? No. Your information is private and secure. It is illegal for any Census employee to share your data with anyone or any government agency. Punishment for sharing this information is a $250,000 fine, 5 years in prison, or both.
- What if someone is temporarily staying with me and they are not on my lease? If someone is staying with you on April 1st, then they get counted in your household. This information is not shared with your landlord, management company, or NYCHA.
- If someone living with me is not on my NYCHA/Section 8/Rent Stabilized/Rent Controlled lease do they get counted at my apartment? Yes! Every single person living or staying in your apartment on April 1st gets counted. Landlords are NOT informed about your Census answers or how many people actually live in your apartment, and it is illegal for Census employees to share that information with anyone or any government agency (including NYCHA).
- Does my kid get counted? Yes! Kids are often undercounted and, as a result, their schools don’t get the funding they deserve.