



# 2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

## *What Community-Based and Social Service Organizations Need to Know*

In 2010, the U.S. census will define who we are as a nation. Taken every 10 years, the census affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. As a community-based or social service organization, you have a unique and trusted connection to the people you serve. As a 2010 Census partner, you can help convey the importance of participating in this historic event and to ensure no one is left uncoun-**ted. Achieving a complete and accurate 2010 Census is in our hands.**

### **The Census: A Snapshot**

- ▲ The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years.
- ▲ The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States: in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.
- ▲ The 2010 Census will create hundreds of thousands of temporary jobs across the nation.

### **It's in Our Hands: Your Participation in the 2010 Census Matters**

- ▲ Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on census data. That's more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period.
- ▲ Census data guide local decision-makers in important community planning efforts, including where to build child-care and community centers.
- ▲ Community planners and governments rely on census data to determine where there is the most need for additional social services and who gets needed funding, such as community development block grants.
- ▲ Census data can help you estimate the number of potential volunteers in your community, the number of residents who may need your services, and can help in writing better proposals for grants.

### **Completing the 2010 Census Questionnaire: Simple and Safe**

- ▲ The 2010 Census questionnaire asks only a few simple questions of each person—name, relationship, gender, age and date of birth, race, and whether the respondent owns or rents his or her home. This simple, short questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete and return by mail.
- ▲ The Census Bureau does not release or share information that identifies individual respondents or their household for 72 years.

[www.census.gov/2010census](http://www.census.gov/2010census)