

Housing Service Providers

Persons experiencing homelessness are consistently undercounted by the U.S. Census, for a myriad of reasons including: difficulty finding and reaching individuals experiencing homelessness, fear and distrust of the government, limited access to the internet, and the incredibly diverse nature of this population. Moreover, Census Bureau's reliance on inadequate data collection methods like the Service Based Enumeration (SBE), and Enumeration at Transitory Locations (ETL) make persons experiencing homelessness an incredibly vulnerable group to undercounting in the 2020 Census.

Many of the services that individuals experiencing homelessness access, such as Section 8 Housing Assistance, rely on a full, fair, and accurate Census. YWCAs, as trusted service providers, are perfectly positioned to address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in their unique communities. One size fits all will not work: the diverse homeless population needs community-based organizations, like YWCAs, to ensure they are counted fully, fairly, and in the right place.

Still Want to Know More? Check Out these Resources from the [Census Counts](#) Resource Library:

- [Counting People Experiencing Homelessness](#)

Take action as a trusted community service provider.

Tier 1

- Use information from the [YWCA Census Toolkit and Guides](#) to talk with the people you serve in your housing programs about the importance and safety of filling out the census.
- Hang the [YWCA Census Posters](#) that address the concerns of individuals experiencing homelessness around your YWCA!
- Print and have Census 101 one-pagers from the [Census Bureau Toolkit](#) available at your front desk for your clients.
- Get in touch with your [local census office](#). Make sure that your service location is going to be counted as a part of their SBE.

Tier 2

- Organize! Check to see if any of your [community partners](#) or other service providers to the homeless are involved in census education. If not, suggest that you make it a shared priority.

Tier 3

- Set up a way for persons experiencing homelessness to fill out the census online at your service location. Become a [Community Resource Center](#).