



ASIAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND

99 HUDSON STREET, 12 FL • NEW YORK, NY 10013 • TEL 212.966.5932 • FAX 212.966.4303 • INFO@AALDEF.ORG

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE 2010 CENSUS

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- Administered once every 10 years, the census provides data that are used to implement a wide variety of policies that affect the Asian American community, including:
 - the allocation of more than \$300 billion in federal funds to states and communities for social services, such as ESL classes, job training, and interpreter services;
 - the enforcement of civil rights laws in education, employment, health care, housing, immigration, lending, and voting;
 - the availability of bilingual ballots;
 - the distribution of Congressional seats to states, and the determination of political representation of racial and ethnic minorities.
- The information you provide in the census is completely confidential. By law, your private information cannot be shared with the USCIS, ICE, IRS, police, building landlords, or neighbors.
- The 2010 decennial census questionnaire only asks a few simple questions – name, relationship, gender, age and date of birth, race, and whether you own or rent your home. But certain other census questionnaires (American Community Survey) will ask about citizenship, income, nativity, and English proficiency. The census never asks about immigration status.
- Between February and March 2010, you should receive the census questionnaire in the mail. Fill it out as accurately as possible, and mail it back. Postage is pre-paid. If you do not receive a questionnaire, you can pick up a “Be Counted” form at a number of community locations.
- Between April and July 2010, census takers (“enumerators”) will be going door-to-door in your neighborhood to follow up with households. This process will consist of the following:
 - First, census takers will visit homes that did not return the census forms in the mail. If they cannot get information from anyone in the household, they will visit neighboring homes.
 - Second, census takers will be visiting homes that did return the form to confirm that it was completed correctly.
 - Third, census takers will verify the information provided by individuals who filled out a “Be Counted” form that was picked up at a neighborhood location.
- Census takers may visit a household more than once. Please cooperate and answer their questions. This is to ensure an accurate count.

- If you do not understand English, you can still be counted!
 - Call the Telephone Questionnaire Assistance (TQA) Center, which will be open from February 25, 2010 through July 30, 2010. The phone number is 1-866-872-6868. They have people who may speak your language.
 - You can fill out the form over the telephone and the census representative can answer any additional questions.
 - You may also request a paper copy of the questionnaire in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish, or Russian.
 - Finally, if you need assistance in languages other than the ones listed, you may also ask for a Language Assistance Guide.
 - Call your local census office and ask for a census taker who speaks your language to come to your home. These telephone numbers will be provided as soon as they are available.
- If you are not sure that the person who visits your home is a census taker, then
 - Ask him/her to show you a “census enumerator” badge, which is issued by the federal government. Census takers may also carry a black bag with the name, “Census 2010” printed in large letters.
 - If you are still concerned, you can call your Regional Census Center to confirm that the person is employed by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- If any census taker behaves in an inappropriate manner or discloses your personal information, call AALDEF immediately at 212-966-5932. AALDEF is monitoring the Census Bureau’s activities in various states. We will report any instance of inappropriate conduct or sharing of personal information. AALDEF’s lawyers will also protect your privacy, especially if you have no immigration papers.

**With so much at stake, an accurate count of the Asian American community is crucial!
Participate in the Census!**

For more information contact:

Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund (AALDEF)
99 Hudson Street, 12th Floor · New York, NY 10013
800.966.5946 · info@aaldef.org · www.aaldef.org