

Press Release

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***“Count Me In”*: Aims to prevent undercount in upcoming 2010 US Census in Humboldt Park and New City**

[Chicago Commons](#) along with [La Casa Norte](#), and [Humboldt Park Social Services](#) received a “Count Me In” grant through the [Illinois Census Funders Initiative](#) to increase response rates in the [2010 census](#) in communities that are at risk for being undercounted in Humboldt Park, New City, Hermosa, and Avondale communities

The 2000 US Census mail response rate in Humboldt Park was 40% and in New City 43%, leaving a large part of those communities-nearly 60% uncouned. This can be attributed to various reasons, but as, Dan Valliere, Executive Director of Chicago Commons stated, “We need to ensure that at a critical time in our country we receive an accurate count of our communities in order to ensure that we can continue to serve the growing needs of the neighborhoods we serve.”

Over the next six months, [Chicago Commons](#) along with [La Casa Norte](#), and [Humboldt Park Social Services](#) “Count Me In” Campaign will reach residents often overlooked by the census - through door-to-door outreach, community meetings, canvassing, and e-newsletters. On Census Day, April 1st 2010, these community organizations will provide space for Questionnaire Assistance Centers and will serve as “Be Counted” sites to assist individuals in completing the census forms. Enrique Salgado, Jr. Chicago Commons “Count Me In” Campaign Organizer stated, “When you [fill out the census form](#), you’re making a statement about what resources your community needs going forward. The census totals also affect funding in your community, and data collected helps inform decision makers how your community is and has changed. Approximately \$400 billion in federal funding is distributed to communities each year- 4trillion over the next ten years for things like new roads and schools, and services, like job training centers, libraries, and parks.

The data help the private sector as well as state and federal governments determine where jobs and job programs are needed. Census data help potential homeowners research property values, median income, and other demographic information about a particular community. Corporations use population data for market research to determine locations for commercial enterprises, such as food stores, pharmacies, and other essential services

If you'd like to volunteer to help spread the word, or at one of our Census Information Centers on Census Day April 1st 2010, please contact Chicago Commons at (773) 638-5600 x 1022

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