

# Census 2010 outreach and assistance sites now open

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Census help sites in the Portland metropolitan area are now open in an effort to ensure every person is counted in the 2010 Census. Question Assistance Centers (QAC) and “Be Counted” sites (BCS) in Multnomah County libraries, city parks and recreation centers, churches, and other community locations are offering census information and assistance through April 19. In addition, sites have also been established in Clark County, Washington and other Oregon counties.

The Complete Count committee for the Portland area, co-chaired by Multnomah County commissioner Deborah Kafoury and Portland city commissioner Nick Fish, prioritized city and county facilities to make it easier to be counted. “It’s estimated that for every 100 people not counted in this census, Multnomah County will lose up to \$1.2 million over the next 10 years,” said Kafoury. “We have to make sure every person in our community is counted, and working with trusted agencies and resource centers is a great way to help us achieve this goal.”

Portland sites include 28 libraries and community centers, 19 agencies that serve racial and ethnic minorities, 15 commercial businesses, and 18 religious organizations. Each of Portland’s QAC locations has a sworn U.S. Census Bureau staff member available to assist with completion of the census questionnaire. Many QACs in Multnomah County also serve as “Be Counted” sites where people can obtain forms in other languages, including Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, and Spanish. Additionally, citizens who think they did not receive a form in the mail can pick up a new one at “Be Counted” sites.

Among the participating QAC locations in Portland are the Asian Health & Service Center (3430 S.E. Powell Boulevard), the Asian Family Center (4424 N.E. Glisan Street), the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (10301 N.E. Glisan Street), and the Northeast Multicultural Senior Center (5325 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard).

The Lilly Market (11001 N.E. Halsey Street) and the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (4134 N. Vancouver Avenue) are two of the many “Be Counted” sites in Portland.

In Washington County, a few of the QAC sites include Paldo Korean Market (3975 S.W. 114th Avenue, Beaverton), the Elsie Stuhr Center (5550 S.W. Hall Boulevard, Beaverton), and Community Action (1001 S.W. Baseline Street, Hillsboro). QAC sites in Clark County include the Korean Senior Citizens Association (5305 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver), the Vancouver Korean Presbyterian Church (5045 E. 18th Street, Vancouver), and other locations.

Hours at both types of sites vary by location. Census counts affect how local governments make planning, business, and grant decisions for its communities. The data gathered by the census also helps inform how states are represented in congress.

“We use census data to plan where we build roads, schools, hospitals, and other critical community services. Portland Parks is proud to partner with the census and offer community centers, where people already feel safe and welcome, as places to get information on the census,” said Fish.

Hard-to-count areas in Multnomah County were identified by the U.S. Census Bureau based on 2000 census information, which found that areas with high nonresponse rates often have vacant housing units, residents living below the poverty level, households that receive public assistance or do not have telephones, or homes in which a language other than English is usually spoken. Multnomah County is the fourth hardest-to-count county in Oregon.

To learn more, visit <[www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov)>.