

# Tribal Consultation

## Director's Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

September 19, 2022

- Good afternoon, everyone. I am Robert Santos, Director of the U.S. Census Bureau. I'd like to give my sincere thanks to all the tribal leaders and their representatives for taking time to join us today.
- We want you to know that these sessions are very important to us at the Census Bureau.
- We recognize that we need to listen more and to listen continually.
- So, please understand that this session marks a beginning not an end. There'll be more tribal consultations to come.
- Our work with you is of the highest importance, and we seek to strengthen our nation-to-nation relationships with all tribes.
- We're committed to providing the quality data you need, data that your communities rely on.
- Today we seek your ideas and feedback about how we are developing the 2020 Demographic and Housing Characteristics products, which we call the DHC for short.
- Now, as you know, we have an obligation to protect the privacy of your tribes' members and the confidentiality of their data.
- As we continue to refine these data products, we're carefully considering how to provide the richness of information that you need for your governance, while staying compliant with our confidentiality obligations.
- But we need your feedback to do this right.
- That's why in this session we describe the DHC product and how privacy protections affect the data that you will receive.
- Now, to give you a better idea of that, we provide you with a prototype set of data.
- That data illustrates how our disclosure avoidance will affect the DHC data, at least in its current version . . . Because we are going to revise it using your feedback.
- The prototype data uses the previous 2010 Census.
- And that allows you to compare with the actual 2010 data we released a decade ago.
- That comparison helps you understand the good things and the not-so-good things about the data we will be releasing.
- Your assessments can give us the feedback we need to improve your 2020 Census data products.
- And why are we going through all the trouble?
- Because it's really important to get your reactions to it . . . to hear your feedback now as well as later, after you've had some time to do a deeper review.
- We want to better address any concerns you have, so that the data better meet your needs.
- You see, we need to balance the protection of member privacy against the richness of detail at the lower levels of geography.
- We know that tribes need and can benefit from more accurate data at lower levels of geography such as census tracts, block groups and blocks.

- But achieving this delicate balance has proven to be quite a challenge, not just for tribes, but for all communities in the United States.
- And that's why we're generating these prototype data based on 2010 data.
- And why we are with you today.
- We deeply value your participation as an American Indian and or Alaska Native data partner.
- Before I end, I would also like to note that we are in the early stages of planning for the 2030 Census and your input is critical.
- I encourage you to provide your ideas in response to the Federal Register Notice that we posted on August 17, 2022.
- Your input will help inform our decisions for the next census, including our research, testing, and design.
- With ideas from the tribes and other communities across America, we are aiming to better reach and count historically undercounted people, overcome challenges and encourage everyone to respond to the 2030 Census.
- It is very important to receive your input early in the decade and to hear from as many people and communities as possible.
- As we get closer to 2030, we'll be much more limited in what we can change.
- So now is the best time to hear from you.
- We're confident that by working together, we can make progress in a way that meets your needs and helps the Census Bureau produce useful statistics about the American Indian and Alaska Native population.
- We look forward to a continued partnership with you and our tribal partners.
- Thank you.