



Siletz receives \$32,000 grant for Census assistance centers in Siletz, Eugene

The Census Equity Funders Committee of Oregon awarded a grant of \$32,000 to the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians to operate as a Census Assistance Center (CAC) in Eugene and Siletz for the 2020 census.

United Way of the Columbia-Willamette will administer the funds. Forty-four similar grants were given to other communities.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) had previously contributed \$2,500 to the Tribe for the census response effort.

The money is dedicated to providing increased hours of operation in order to help Tribal members and the general public complete the 2020 census questionnaire. The offices will be open several hours later and on Saturdays from mid-March through mid-June. For those who can't come into the offices, help will be available by phone.

Beginning March 12, the U.S. Census Bureau will send mailers inviting everyone to go online and complete the survey. Unfortunately, people with P.O. boxes will not receive the mailers, but still need to reply.

In many cases, invitations to respond online will be hand delivered. In a very few cases, census takers will come to your door to deliver paper questionnaires.

One way to avoid having them come to your door is to use any of the area offices, not just in Eugene or Siletz, to get help filling out your form. The offices will not have paper forms, but will have computers that can be used. Many libraries will also have facilities to help.

There are good reasons for NCAI and United Way to fund these efforts. Children and minority populations receive program

funding from the federal government based on population counts from the census. These groups, however, have been significantly undercounted in past censuses.

Oregon can gain another representative in the U.S. House if everyone gets counted. Local redistricting is based on census results.

There's just a short time left to get applications in for well-paying work as census enumerators. Apply online at 2020Census.gov/jobs or call 855-JOB-2020.

2020 Census starts in Toksook Bay, Alaska, for once-a-decade count of people

Census takers begin counting remainder of 220 remote Alaska villages as part of national headcount

TOKSOOK BAY, Alaska – U.S. Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham kicked off the 2020 Census on Jan. 21 in the remote Alaska Native village of Toksook Bay — counting the first person and household in the nation's once-a-decade count.

"The 2020 Census is critically important. No matter where you live, you need to be counted," said Dillingham. "From the most remote parts of our country to the most urban, there is too much at stake — we are working to make sure everyone can respond and have the opportunity to shape their communities' future."

The U.S. Constitution mandates that a census of the population be conducted every 10 years. Census statistics are used to determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and inform how billions of dollars in federal funds will be allocated by state, local and federal lawmakers every year for the next 10 years.

Following a four-day trip in Anchorage and Bethel, Alaska, Dillingham traveled to Toksook Bay where he was met by village leaders, residents and local census takers. He delivered the first 2020 Census questionnaire to a household selected by village leaders and enumerated the residents of that household.

"I want to thank the people of Toksook Bay for their hospitality," said Dillingham. "The 2020 Census will shape our future and I am proud we started this journey here."

Toksook Bay is a village located on Nelson Island along the Bering Sea in southwestern Alaska. Census takers must get a head start in rural, remote areas

like Toksook Bay when the ground is frozen and prior to the spring thaw, when residents leave to fish, hunt and seek out warm-weather jobs.

"We have been working to prepare for this count since before 2018 and are happy to see the first count of the 2020 Census begin in our village. Through this historic occasion we have shared with the Census Bureau our traditions and our culture," said Robert Pitka, Nunakauyak Tribal administrator. "The 2020 Census ensures our traditions and our people are marked in history. The census is so important because it helps remote villages like ours receive important community resources now and into the future."

More than half of households on Tribal lands across the country have nontraditional addresses where the Census Bureau can't mail a census form. With no at-home mail delivery and a short window to respond before seasons change, receiving an invitation this way would be nearly impossible for remote Alaska residents.

This is why the Census Bureau worked with Alaska Native leaders to determine the best way to count people living on their lands. In Toksook Bay and other remote areas of Alaska, census takers will visit people at home and will fill out their questionnaire in person.

The first enumeration comes days after the launch of a \$500 million public education and outreach campaign featuring more than 1,000 advertisements designed to inform the public about the importance of responding to the 2020 Census. Ads reaching multicultural and historically undercounted audiences are already airing nationwide while ads for general audiences will begin running on Feb. 10, 2020.

This past December marked the first time the Census Bureau aired ads reaching audiences in remote Alaska for a decennial census. Aimed primarily at reaching Alaska Native people, these promotional

materials included full-page print ads, commercial signage, posters, radio ads and digital messages.

The massive public education effort includes a heavy focus on encouraging

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2020 CTSI Planning Department Community Meetings

Dates and Locations

Thursday, Feb. 6 – Siletz Tribal Community Center

Thursday, Feb. 20 – Portland Area Office

General Schedule for Evening

5 p.m. – Mingle

5:15 p.m. – Welcome & Prayer

5:30 p.m. – Light Dinner

5:40 p.m. – Agenda

FEMA and Hazard Planning Update

2020 Census and the Tribal Complete Count

And more!

7 p.m. – Drawing, Open Discussion and Mingling!

For more information, contact the Planning Department at 541-444-8361 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1361; or 541-444-8127 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1127, for the Planning clerk.