

# Complete Count: Census Day April 1

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But Starkovich, an enrolled member of the tribe in charge of her reservations' Complete Count Committee, has a challenge ahead of her, working against centuries of government mistrust.

"As indigenous people, we are a little afraid of the government," she explained, "because we've been hurt by the government."

Starkovich's first goal, she said, is getting people on the Bois Forte Reservation, which shares a border with Minnesota, to believe her when she says the data they provide the government is confidential.

Her neighbors are wary of giving away all their information, and she is quick to explain that specific census data isn't shared with law enforcement, the government or even the tribe.

She also has to convince the community that the census has a real effect on their day to day lives, from funding for roads and buildings, to resources that the Indian Health Service devotes to their tribe. Some people don't know that the census translates into cash for the community, but some people who do also just don't believe that participating will make a real impact. Starkovich says convinc-

ing people on the reservation that the census matters is among her top priorities. Over \$1.5 trillion of federal money is allocated across the country each year based on census data, according to new research from George Washington University. And tribes like Starkovich's count on federal funding owed to them by treaties with the U.S. and from other laws and agreements.



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