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National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
The Census and the Disability Community: Get Ready to be Counted!
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[Please stand by for captions]

>>> Welcome to the census and the disability community, get ready to be counted conference call. My name is Adrian, and I'll be your operator for today's call. At this time, all participants are in a listen-only mode. Later, we'll conduct a question and answer session. During the question and answer session, if you have a question, please press star, then one on your touch tone phone. I'll now turn the call over to Erika Hudson. You may begin.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Thanks, Adrian. And hi, everyone. Welcome to today's webinar. The Arc and NDRN is so excited for you-all to be here, and it looks like we have a bunch of folks from across the country who are ready to get counted. It looks like a lot of folks are already answering our discussion question. We'll see a few discussion questions throughout today's webinar, so we'd love any participation from you-all. And I'll go into detail on how we do that when those questions come up. As you can perhaps see on the screen right now for those joining us. It says which state do you think will see the highest percentage increase in their population after the 2020 census. So many folks are already putting in their answer.

We have Arizona, Colorado, Florida, New Jersey, Oklahoma, California. Feel free throughout today's webinar, when you see that tool bar opportunity to let us know what you think. And the screen will look very similar to this. So you'll know the right opportunity when you're going to get started for some active participation. So we're really excited to try this new feature and a few other logistics before we get started. We do have a chat box available for folks who are available on the computer. A lot of folks have already started introducing themselves on that. That's fantastic, and we want you to do that. This is a great opportunity to ask any questions. Later on in our webinar, we'll also open up a question and answer pod which will look very similar to the chat box. But we welcome any questions as we'll have a Q&A session at the end of today's webinar.

Without further ado, Julie Ward and I are super excited to welcome you-all today to this joint webinar hosted by The Arc and the National Disability Rights Network, "The Census and the Disability Community: Get Ready to be Counted!" And today is a great day for it because it is February 13th, what I like to call Galentine's Day. My name again is Erika Hudson. I'm a public policy analyst with the National Disability Rights Network here in D.C. NDRN is the national membership association for the federally mandated protection and advocacy systems across the country. There are a total of 57 of them, and every U.S. state, every territory, D.C., Puerto Rico, and one in the four corners region of the southwest serving specifically native Americans with disabilities. So definitely follow up following today's webinar. They're doing incredible work advocating for people with disabilities across the country.

I do want to give Julie an opportunity to say hi to everyone before we get started.

>> JULIE WARD: Hi, good afternoon, everyone. I'm thrilled to be here with Erika at the National Disability Rights Network offices to host this webinar. We are super excited about the work we're doing on the census, our ability to create some materials to share with you, the excitement that people seem to have for the census. Thank you all for participating on this call. And let's just dive right in and start talking about the census and what we need to do.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Thank you, Julie. On the screen right now, we do have our agenda. What these next 60 minutes will look like. And of course we will be talking about census 2020. If you were thinking of something else, stay tuned. I promise this will be still really interesting. We'll take a deep dive into the disability community and why the census is so important and the accessibility features that are available for this census. And then we'll discuss some of these key dates and timelines and what we're looking for as we approach our get out the count effort, our GOTC efforts, if you will, and the resources available to make sure that everyone is ready to be counted in the census.

So with that, we're going to go ahead and get right on into it. I imagine a lot of people on this webinar are familiar with what the census is. We'll do a little overview so we're on the same page moving forward going into discussions we'll have today. Of course the census happens every ten years. It's mandated in the U.S. Constitution. So it's happened ever since our Constitution was ratified. And census 2020 is of course our next census. It in fact will be the 24th census of the United States. This is not our first go-around, but it's of course getting increasingly harder to do a full count of the U.S. population since we are so big. Again, that's exactly what the census aims to do, to count every single person in the United States.

And it's in fact the largest peacetime mobilization we see every ten years. It's not going to be an easy feat. The census bureau, the agency tasked to do this count relies on all of us to make sure that every single person in the United States gets counted this year. With that, we're going to go into some of the details for census 2020. It is households that are going to be asked to respond to the census. And every household will receive an invitation from the census bureau to respond and people will be asked to self-respond by computer, by tablet, mobile device, you name it. If it has an online feature. By phone or by mail. If people choose not to self-respond, they will then be visited by a census taker, a census enumerator, a staff of the census bureau and ask to report, self-respond with that person in an interview style.

The rule of where you will be counted is where you live and sleep most of the time. We'll go into further discussions today, Julie and I, on where that falls because there are some unique circumstances that exist, especially within the disability

community. Again, the regular rule of thumb is where you live and sleep most of the time is where you will be counted for census 2020. And we wanted to just touch base on the questions that will be asked on the census this year. And before doing that, we want to ask you-all a question. And on the screen right now folks will see the question that reads "will disability related questions be on the census 2020."

And you're going to see a poll that pops on the screen, and you'll have the opportunity to say yes or no to this. We want an opportunity to talk to folks of what this might be. So we're just going to take a few seconds to get those answers rolling in as you-all are doing a fantastic job answering that. So Julie and I will discuss and read these answers out loud. We'll see if we have any more coming in. Again, the question is: Will disability-related questions be on the census 2020. And right now, we're going to broadcast the results. And right now, it looks like we have 66 people who said, yes, disability-related questions will be on the census. These numbers are changing, folks. We're up to 72 people who said disability questions will be asked on the census 2020 and 39 people said no, disability-related questions will not be asked on the census 2020.

So thank you all so much for taking the time to answer that. That is super helpful for us to know as we have a discussion on what questions will be asked on the census 2020. And with that, we're going to go to the next slide answering because the answer actually is no. Disability-related questions will not be asked on the census. That happens every ten years. Disability questions are asked on another survey that is also hosted by the U.S. census bureau, a survey called the American community survey. ASC for short. This survey is different from the census as it happens every single year and is sent to about 2.5% of households. So not the entire U.S. population.

And they kind of do an estimate through that. That's where the disability community can see some of their questions on specifically and where we get those numbers. But on the census that happens every ten years, and that is sent to every single household, disability-related questions are not on that. Instead, we see questions related to the number of people that live in a certain household, their relationship to each other, whether they own or rent the property they reside in, their name, their sex, their age, their race, and Hispanic origin, and some of those logistical questions such as phone numbers in case the bureau needs to talk to folks.

Again, disability-related questions will actually not be on the census. Another question that is not on the census is the citizen question. Some folks might be familiar with what happened these last couple years whether or not that question was going to be on the census, but it is not going to be on the census this year. You will not see disability-related questions and you will not see a question about citizenship on the census that is happening this year.

Without further ado, we're going to go ahead and have our next discussion opportunity with you-all. So on the screen right now, we have a question that Julie and I would love to see your answers to which is: Why is the census important for people with disabilities? And you have the opportunity now as I'm discussing this to either put that on the nice pink screen, since it is Valentine's Day, or you have the opportunity to put it in our poll questions to let us know why you think it's important. And Julie, please correct me if I'm wrong, I don't think there's a wrong answer here. Everyone might have their different approaches, but we'll see some of the answers that are coming in. You guys are amazing.

People are saying so everyone is counted, government funding. Julie, do you see anything that popped out here along with these fantastic answers. Look at this. This is incredible.

>> JULIE WARD: It's absolutely true so much funding depends on the census. It's important to point out it's not just government funding, but census data is used by businesses to decide where grocery stores are going, by all kinds of other uses for the community. So it's really -- the people who are touching on funding and community representation are really -- that's really important answer.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Totally. These answers are fantastic. Someone said to be counted like everyone else. Yes. Hello. Absolutely. Being equal. These answers are fantastic and they're still coming in. What's exciting about this is that we're -- after today's webinar, everyone will receive a copy of the webinar's recording along with the PowerPoint. So you'll be able to see these responses that people put in. Again, thank you all so much for being willing to have this active conversation with us and to make sure that we're all on the same page. We had people that put housing costs in here, absolutely. Lot of folks have been saying so everyone is counted. I couldn't agree more. That's why we're out here today for this webinar, right? And Julie and I and her team and my team are making sure everyone is counted and everyone in the disability community is counted as it is so crucial that that is.

Thank you for participating in this. Without further ado, I do want to ask Adrian if we have someone on the phone who also wanted to participate in this conversation that might not see the webinar. Adrian, is there anyone on the phone by chance? Otherwise we'll continue onward.

>> As a reminder, if you'd like to participate on the phone via audio, please press star one to enter the queue. Currently we have no --

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Excellent. Perfect.

>> We have Myrna. Your line is open.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Perfect. Hey, Myrna, do you want to share why the census is important for the disability community?

>> Pretty much everyone answered what I noted down, too. Everyone is included in the census and everyone needs to be counted as well as beneficial for community planning. As you mentioned -- someone mentioned businesses and resources for all individuals residing in the communities.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Awesome. Thank you so much for closing us out on that. That was the perfect way to sum it all up. So thank you so much. And thanks to our operator, Adrian, for getting us started there with our interactivity on the phone. Thank you all so much for participating. With that, I basically don't have to talk about what's on the screen right now because you-all already said it.

Of course census data is crucial for federal funding. The number is close to \$1.5 trillion in funding every year that's sent to the state. Some of the programs that you-all mentioned already, housing, programs like SNAP or Medicaid and so much more. Something that I think is also helpful for us to touch base on is congressional seats, right? Census data determines how many U.S. house of representatives each state gets. It's all based on population. That's why we maybe see California having a few bit more folks in the U.S. house of representatives than states like North Dakota. Nonetheless, it's important that we make sure every person in each individual state is counted so they have the appropriate number of congressional seats for their state. Another one that we just touched based on are district boundaries. Based on how many people live in certain areas, that's how folks draw voting districts and school districts, it's huge.

It's so much that this all involves, and that's why it's so crucial that every single person is counted, including the disability community. And that's why Julie and I just wanted to take a moment to talk about people with disabilities in program, because I

think a lot of folks on this webinar can relate that the disability community is often overlooked and often forgotten about. Sometimes that is very much the case when discussing census because there are so many things that are going into the census that we need to also have the opportunity to make sure that everyone is included in this process. And with that, I think it's really important to touch base on that, people with disabilities are actually considered hard to count under the U.S. census bureau. Other hard-to-count populations include those experiencing homelessness, young children, folks who are maybe not from the United States.

Again, it's a vast majority -- a lot of folks who are considered hard to count. And this can be considered because they are hard to locate, hard to interview, hard to -- for different reasons that the bureau has experienced over the last couple of years, they have perhaps had an undercount of people with disabilities. And the other communities that are considered hard to count. And according to data that the National Disability Rights Network put together along with Georgetown law poverty and equality center, one in five people with disabilities live in areas that are considered hard to count. Areas that are considered hard to count are those that the bureau relies on census takers to go into the community because self-response is low or even considered hard to count if their self-response rate back in 2010 was less than 73%.

So, again, that means that one in five people with disabilities live in these areas. And on the screen right now you can find some of the states that have a much higher population of people with disabilities that live in areas that are hard to count. So New Mexico is actually over 50%. We have Alaska that's 47%. Oklahoma, that's at 38%. And we have Louisiana at 36%. And New York at 35. Again, the U.S. national average there was 18.8%. So nearly one in five people with disabilities live in areas that are considered hard to count. Again, why it's so important that you-all are on this webinar today to know what the resources are and what's at stake for everyone including people with disabilities.

And as we discussed, some of the reasons why people with disabilities are hard to count is whether they're hard to locate, hard to interview, hard to persuade and hard to contact. There's a lot of different reasons why the bureau considers different groups hard to count. I think a lot of us on this webinar can consider why people with disabilities are hard to count and that's why we want to talk about accessibility for the census 2020. With all these different response options, it's important to know the resources available for everyone and people with disabilities so they aren't hard to count, that they aren't hard to interview, so they aren't hard to persuade. And the census bureau has said that the 2020 is accessible for everyone. They've made sure that online platform is Section 508 compliant, everyone has the capability of going on there using different assistive technology such as screen readers and that the online platform is acceptable of those options.

The phone system uses TDT technology. That's a specific phone number that people can call if they want to use that process going through the phone. Or by mail, the census bureau is providing braille and large print language guides. The large print is currently available on the census bureau 2020 census website. What's important to distinguish here is that those are the actual forms, right? So this -- that I'm holding onto the screen is how the census form will look like. Unfortunately these large print and braille guides are just what I would say sample ballots. Meaning, if someone wants to read the braille form, then they can do that. They still need to respond by the traditional mail form or go online or by phone. So it's important not to advertise necessarily that someone can respond using completely braille because unfortunately that is not the case. But the bureau does have braille and large print language guides for folks so they

can kind of go step by step and knowing what's on the census form that they will submit in the mail.

With that, I do want to turn it onto Julie now who will kind of discuss some of the frequently asked questions within the disability community and then later on what the resources are available. So without further ado, Julie, please take it away.

>> JULIE WARD: Thank you, Erika. Like -- as she mentioned, I really wanted to kind of go into a little bit more detail on some of the important points that Erika made during her presentation. I thought it was helpful to kind of look at the map of the months ahead. Where we're at right now in census preparation is awareness building. We are trying to, like, remind people that the census is coming, it's important to -- to participate, you're going to start to see billboards and advertisements and PSAs from the census bureau and others. We in the advocacy community are gearing up to raise awareness. And then as we move into February and March, it's really about motivation. Get -- get people to commit to filling out the census. Get people prepared for how to help people to fill out the census.

And then beginning March 1st, I think it's important to know that there's telephone help available from the census bureau if anyone has any concerns or questions about answering the census. So that begins on March 1st. March 12th through April 30th is really the opportunity where, as Erika explained earlier, people self-respond. People get their instructions. They go online, fill out their form or they call and fill out their form, or some people will receive their form by mail. A small percentage of the population who live in underserved areas where internet is more difficult will automatically receive a mail copy. And then from April 2nd through June 5th is a special counting process for people who live in group quarters.

I'm going to talk about that a little more in minute. And then it shifts from May 13th to the end of July. This is where the census workers will actually come and follow up if you did not complete your census online by phone or by mail. So this is where you have the census workers, as they're called enumerators, could actually arrive and knock on your door if you hadn't filled out your census. So I think that that's an important -- uh-oh. Sorry. I have to learn how to navigate this delightful technology. Okay.

So we're moving over to one question that we've gotten a lot is: Can we help people fill out their census form? And the census bureau has assured us that if a person with a disability needs help or wants help in filling out the form, that that is fine. That people can assist others in filling out the census form. I think where the -- the sensitivity comes in is that census information is protected by the Constitution, by federal law. It is private. It cannot be shared. So the census bureau is not going to freely say to everyone, yes, you can have access to people's private census information. They're trying to walk a line between, yes, you can help people, you can accommodate people by helping them with the forms or you can ask the folks to call the census bureau and they will help them, but the census bureau isn't going to say -- they don't want third parties having access to constitutionally protected data and information. It's something they take very seriously.

So I think it's important for us as advocates to keep in mind that, you know, yes, we can assist someone, but this information is private and protected and cannot be shared or cannot be stored. You cannot collect information from people and submit it yourself on their behalf. It has to be under their control or in their environment. So I think that's a really important point. And it's why sometimes when you ask the census bureau, they don't come straight out and tell you -- answer it like we're able to answer it as advocates.

We've gotten a lot of questions. Erika mentioned this earlier: Where am I counted? As she said, you're counted where you live and sleep most of the time. For most people, this is going to be, you know, over six months. They do -- there are special considerations for people in the hospital, people in psychiatric units, people in different kinds of facilities on April 1st, which is census day. And for the most part, you are counted where you live and sleep most of the time. If you're in acute care setting, you're probably not likely to be counted there. But if you're living somewhere long-term, that's probably where you'll be counted.

So I just want to emphasize for everyone, you will not be ask on the decennial census whether you're a citizen of the country. The census question is not ask. There was a lot of litigation, a lot of effort to maybe add that question. That has failed. It's worrisome to advocates for people -- for immigration rights groups and others because it has a chilling effect on people. If people are worried that they're going to be ask about their citizenship or that their citizenship information may be shared, they may not want to fill out the census. So it's really important -- I want to emphasize that strongly. The question is not being ask. And the related concern about whether your information can be shared, it's important to emphasize that census information is not shared and is protected by law. It's a very important part of the training process for census workers. Respecting that privacy. It's important for us as advocates to be aware of those information. And to reassure people that whatever they share on the census will not be shared anywhere else.

I want to come back to group quarters. That's census speak for housing facilities or facilities that more than one person or a family live in. Things like prisons, nursing homes, colleges. There's special counting processes for those groups. And this includes group homes [lot of background noise interference] there's a category in group quarters for that, but there's not a lot of specific information about how the group quarters process works for group homes. Over the years, they figured it out for hospitals and nursing homes and prisons and marine vessels and the Army. That's something that they do every ten years. They've got it figured out.

I think with the group homes situation, you're -- it's never clear whether a group home will be counted as a regular housing unit because there's nothing identifiable about the place that says it's a group home. Or if it's a larger facility and maybe it's owned and advertised that it's not -- that it is some kind of supported living place, then it might be counted as part of the group quarters process. And I think this is the period of time where if you are an administrator in a large group home, you may hear from the census bureau about whether you want to have -- be enumerated under the group quarters process, which basically gives you a couple of different options of how to fill out the census for the people living in your home.

I think for the most part, people who live with one other person or with two people in a house, even if they're receiving outside supports and services, they will probably be counted the same way every other house on their block is counted. They won't have the special group quarters process. But I think people need to know that in those homes, it's okay for whoever's providing support in the home to help fill out the census form. And to make sure that everybody works for any of our providers or works for any providing this support, they're also likely hard to count population of people. We want this information about and awareness about how important it is to fill out the census to go not toward the people with disabilities supported in these housing arrangements, but to the people who provide services there, to the people who run the services, to the broad community that we all need to be counted.

So let's get counted. Let's talk about what resources are out there for us to

use in the census. First let's start, though, by asking you what 2020 census resources are you currently using? This is an opportunity for you to share if you've accessed any information about the 2020 census so we can kind of know what people are already using, what we should advertise more. And then in a minute, after we give people a chance to respond to the -- our survey -- we'll wait for a minute, then we'll talk about some of the resources that we've been able to develop both The Arc and National Disability Rights Network.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: It looks like --

>> JULIE WARD: Go ahead, Erika.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Looks like folks are putting in their responses, both in the chat box and on the screen where the question is. I see a lot of The Arc up in there, yes, complete count committees, the 2020 census website, disability count 2020.org. Oh, my gosh, this is fantastic. Look at all those resources. I need to broadcast the results, folks. You'll both see in the chat box and on the screen some of those resources that hi just mentioned. -- that I just mentioned. Julie, do you see a bunch that stand out to you?

>> JULIE WARD: I'm just thrilled that so many people have gone to the census website already. I'm glad that people are aware of the complete count committees and that people are on some of the census listservs. That will save us some time at the end of the webinar. I see we need more resources and materials. I'm looking forward to talking more about that. We have put together some resources which I'll talk about in a minute. It's also important for us to listen to you and to hear what you need and what information would be helpful to you so that we can figure out how to answer questions and get information out there. Since Erika is my technology expert, I'll leave it to her to decide --

>> ERIKA HUDSON: I think we're good to go. Thank you all so much. Like Julia said, this is really helpful. I'm glad you had the opportunity to respond. I'm so glad people said disability rights California resources and their disability community toolkit. Recently as of the last week, we put out videos. I don't want to spoil what Julie is going to talk about so we'll continue onward.

>> JULIE WARD: Thank you. We were fortunate to receive support from the Ford foundation, we're appreciative of that support, to develop some materials to specifically outreach to people with disabilities and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in particular. We are fortunate to be part of the philanthropic community gathered together to try to fund outreach amongst many different communities because they were very concerned that the census would result in an undercount and not be a fair and accurate census. They put money into a lot of different organizations and The Arc was fortunate to get some money to -- this past fall to create some fact sheets and brochures and videos that are both in English and in Spanish. The area we focused on was to try to develop some materials to help people in plain language know that they need to complete the census and some help with how to complete the sentence.

We worked with ASAN to develop plain language, both the one-pager information, but also the video in plain language in both English and Spanish. So we're really excited about that. It's available on our website, both at -- in plain text if you people want to download it and the use that, and also formatted in a really pretty -- pretty way. We also developed a brochure to kind of be for organizations, encourage organizations to participate in awareness and motivation around the census and give them some ideas of what they can do to ensure that people are -- are counted. And we're trying to widely distribute those. You can find all of these resources on our website, thearc.org/census. I encourage people to come onto our website and

look around.

we've also tried to link to NDRN's fabulous resources and the census bureau's. And we'll be looking for other resources as well to link to as we get closer to the census day.

With that, I think I'll turn it back to Erika.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Awesome, thank you, Julie. Definitely check out The Arc's resources. Their videos are absolutely incredible. Someone said they utilized social media to get account. Definitely check that out and share anything that you have. We've been really fortunate at NDRN to have this really collaborative opportunity with The Arc to make sure we are as a whole, as a community, make sure everyone is getting counted. I also recommend folks checking out NDRN's website. We have several different sources available, including material that we put together with Georgetown Law that has some of the statistics of the programs that are really crucial for the disability community such as the P&A network or SNAP or Medicaid. We also have resources from the bureau up on our website. So information where we talk about whether the census is accessible. You can locate that at NDRN's website.

If you're interested in learning more about some of those hard-to-count statistics that we were talking about earlier and see what states have certain populations that are considered hard to count. Check out NDRN's website along with The Arc's as we have a running table with all the states and what the percentages look like. If you weren't one of those five I had on the screen earlier. Definitely take a look at NDRN's website. You'll see on the web page platform we had all the links that we're mentioning now. So you'll see all the links including The Arc's web page, NDRN's web page on the left-hand bottom screen. If you click those, you will have those resources right at your fingertips.

Another page is censuscounts.org. Census counts campaign is a collaborative campaign with a bunch of different partners on the national level who are working together to make sure that everyone is counted. The census count web page, that's also linked on this webinar, has all of the resources both Julie and I mentioned from our organizations, but also from all of these other fantastic organizations that are working to make sure that people are counted in the 2020 census. That can be population-based. So if you're looking for information particularly on native Americans, definitely check out the census counties website. And they're working with different advocates to make sure all that information is available. They have a lot of information on citizenship that we talked about, how that will not be on the 2020 census so if there's any concerns in your community about that, definitely check out Census Counts.

I encourage you-all to be a part of this conversation as census count has a state action network. I know we have a bunch of folks from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Alaska that I saw here. Let Julie and I know if you want to be in touch with folks. There's a lot of complete count committees that we're going to talk about. Definitely make sure you know where all these resources are. I will say there's no need to reinvent the wheel. There are so many resources out there that you can put on social media or do whatever, put in a newsletter. So please don't feel like this is -- you have to reinvent the wheel if you don't want to because there's so many resources both from NDRN, The Arc. With that, I'm going to pass it back to Julie to wrap us up before we go into Q&A.

>> JULIE WARD: I was glancing at the chat box. There's some really fantastic questions and feedback and things that we should -- will respond to if not on this webinar, in some other way because they're asking some really great questions. And basically what -- my plea to you is help us share this information. Talk about the census at meetings that you're having. Just -- just mentioning it, how important it is, it's part of doing your part to make sure that we have a fair and accurate census. From The Arc's

point of view, anything that we've put on our website, we are open to having you share as widely as you want to share it or have you use that information with your audiences. It's open and to the public. The purpose of it is to, you know, help reach as many people as we can.

We've talked a little bit about partnering with the census bureau and with the complete count committees. I can see from the feedback that we've gotten that many of you are connected already. If you want more information about how to connect to them, the specific web links and other ways of connecting are found in get your community counted, one of the brochures that we put together for our organization so you can access that information online. I think that -- I've been really, really impressed and happy to see, although somewhat disturbed to see some of the questions. I think they're serious that we really need to develop responses to.

So I think Erika and I and Claire Manning from our office and our census team is going to have a little bit of work to do following up from these webinars with providing some additional guidance and information on some of the lines people have been chatting about. It's very, very helpful. But I want to end my part, switching you back to Erika.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Yes. Thank you.

>> JULIE WARD: How important it is.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Yeah. And I think Julie and I just want to make sure if you take one thing from this webinar, it's make sure that you are counted in the 2020 census. Unless you are currently in United Kingdom or in Australia or New Zealand, that's one thing. But if you are in the United States and you will be in the United States on April 1st, please make sure you are counted. You have every right to be counted. I am a big fan of puns. Those who are not joining us. There's a picture of the donut on the screen that says donut forget to complete the 2020 census. This is serious information we're talking about. It is crucial. It's our civic duty, but we can have fun with it to make sure people know they have the right to be counted.

With that, Julie and I are incredibly grateful for all of you tuning into our 43-minute presentation. We really want to take the opportunity to answer questions. You-all have been fantastic in our chat box. Julie and I have been keeping an eye on that. We're going to go ahead and get started with some of these questions right away, but keep them coming. Here in a bit, we'll ask if anyone's on the phone and have that opportunity. I will say there are a lot of questions. This is awesome. If we don't get to all of them today, Julie and I's e-mail information is at the end of this presentation. You-all will have access to that. If we don't get to your questions, we'll be sure to follow up with all of this as well.

One thing that I saw that came pretty on in this webinar, I'm going to have Julie also chime in, but I wanted to touch on the fact that disability-related questions are not on the census. So this is one of the reasons I think also why people with disabilities are hard to count because they don't see themselves in the census, right? They see themselves in the American community survey, but they may not see themselves in the census. And that's hard. And that is really sad. But unfortunately -- we can't change that right now. But what we can say is come together as a community and say, we do count. We may not have a specific question on here, but we're a part of all these other communities and we are here to say we count.

And that's why all of us in the disability community think and have an active role -- whether that be on social media or whether that being on complete count committees that Julie talked about, or being active as members and as associations to make sure that our community knows that we have every right to be counted. It's a

really incredible opportunity, I think, for us to say we're here and we're excited to be counted. Because not only do we need to count everyone, we need to include everyone in this process. And I think that's been really interesting for Julie and I and Claire with The Arc as well to really have that opportunity to talk with some of the folks within our allies and really say, hey, don't forget people with disabilities. We need to make sure things are accessible. We need to make sure that you're not forgetting really important group of people that may often be overlooked.

Even though disability questions aren't asked on the census, it's still so important. It's not only important for us, it's important for everyone.

And that's where we fall in. If you're having conversations with people and they're saying, hey, we're not on here, that's okay. That is absolutely true. But nonetheless, we are still a part of the United States. We're here and we have every right to be counted to make sure we get the services we need, that we're represented. And that's why it's so crucial that we come in. In order to have an accurate American community survey where the disability related question is, we have to have an accurate census. So those tie hand in hand as well. That goes a lot over my head in terms of statistics and how they work with those numbers, so I won't go into that. But it's so important. Julie, do you want to add anything to that?

>> JULIE WARD: No, I -- I don't have anything to add. I completely agree with what you're saying. And I think it's -- it comes back to the important question of we need to all respond to the census so that we have a fair and accurate census. We need to do it for our community to make sure -- you know, this isn't a disability specific thing. This is our place in the broader community and doing our part to make sure that this works for everyone. And I guess this is a little off topic, but it kind of touches on some of the comments from the chat box.

At The Arc, we're really looking at our census work as civic engagement and encouraging our chapters and members and parents and everyone connected to us to respond to the census, but this is a whole civic engagement year because as soon as the census is completed, we're rolling into an election and it's important to emphasize that in the spectrum of being engaged, you know, completing the census is just as important as registering to vote and voting and it's all part of the continuum of our messaging to our -- our members, our advocates, our chapters. And I -- I would encourage others, it's a continuum of civic engagement that we do as citizens. Maybe citizens isn't the perfect word to use there. That we do as people if we live in the United States.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Exactly. Thank you so much, Julie. Thank you all so much for all the questions. We're going to get to some more here. One I saw that I can answer really quick is the question when braille and the American Sign Language video guide will be up. The Arc and NDRN are in active communication with the bureau trying to make sure this is up yesterday. Unfortunately, it is not up yet, but definitely keep on eye on The Arc's and the NDRN's website as we'll be sure to announce when that's coming. Right now unfortunately we don't have a specific date. They are actively working on that. It is expected it will be done very soon as we are approaching census day very quickly. As of right now, they are not available. However the TTY phone number, that is available for folks.

So if you need to share that specific number with folks interested using in that option, you can share that direct phone number. You can also share direct phone numbers for all the other numbers that are available including English phone line along with the 12 other languages that are available for folks to call via the phone. That's up on both NDRN's and The Arc's website. Julie, do you want to take a look at any of these

questions and answer real quick? Otherwise, I'm happy to keep us going.

>> JULIE WARD: I would like to respond on the -- on the group quarters issue. I don't know that I was completely clear. I really think from location to location, state to state, this will probably be handled differently. And I know -- someone made the point here that if you're an organization and you have multiple housing locations, you should not assume that you'll be contacted centrally. I think that is very, very true. I think it -- it varies -- it really will vary according to how you are listed in their address canvassing and their address lists that they've gathered before. And it will depend a lot on the staff in each area.

So it's hard for us to be really definitive about how this process might work for people who provide services, but I do think that's an important point that was made in the chat that you will not likely be contacted if you have multiple sites in a central way. Each of your sites may, or may not, be contacted. It's a difficult information. We really push the census bureau to give us more information that we can share with people and we haven't received that yet we'll keep trying to nail down some of those answers.

I guess the other thing I feel like I really need to respond to, but we'll need to double check on that. This issue of guardians being able to say that an individual does not need to complete their census, I -- I think that is wrong in multiple ways. It's your civic responsibility to respond to the census. A guardian should not have the authority to overrule the census. I -- but we'll make sure. I'm not an attorney, so I really shouldn't act like an attorney, especially when I'm talking with National Disability Rights Network and their incredible network of really knowledgeable attorneys, but that one really -- I've not seen that particular take on this, that guardians would say, no, you can't complete the census. And if that is happening, then we definitely have to get information together and be -- beef up our response on that because that is completely counterproductive to what we're trying to accomplish.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Absolutely. The biggest thing is that everyone in the United States is counted. It doesn't matter if you're a baby, if you're born on March 30th, you live in the United States as of April 1st. You will be counted in our decennial census. If you are 26 years old, you are counted. If you are 50, about to retire, that would be awesome. You are counted if you live in the United States. Exactly as Julie said, whether you are under guardianship, you are counted because you are here. So that's something that's really important.

Thank you all for even answering questions within the chat to each other. We'll be sure to follow up. I do want to take an opportunity and check on the phone if there is someone in the queue to make sure they also have an opportunity to ask. Do we have anyone in queue by chance that want to ask a question are.

>> If you'd like to ask a question or participate, please press star and then one on your touch tone phone. We do have Alicia from disability rights. Your line is open.

>> Hi. This is Alicia.

>> Hi, Alicia.

>> So I am an attorney and I focus on guardianship issues and guardians should absolutely be obligated to either assist or allow their wards to fill out their census form. I don't know why that would even be considered a question. But yes. They should be -- they should be allowed -- if the ward wants to fill out their own census form, then they should be allowed to do that themselves. At least in Pennsylvania. And if they can't, the guardian should assist them. I don't know, seems like an odd thing to me that that would be an issue.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Thank you so much for sharing that. We truly do appreciate

that. Thank you so much.

>> You're welcome.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Great. Y'all should definitely participate on the phones so we can hear you, too. Do we have any other folks on the phone here that want to ask any questions?

>> As a reminder, to participate, please press star one. We do have Margot Waters. Your line is open.

>> Hi, yes. This is Margot. So I wanted to know. We have a lot of consumers come in and out of our office daily. And I was wondering is the census form something that we could offer here at the office?

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Thank you so much for asking that question. That was great. You cannot unfortunately have the actual census form available as the census bureau is only mailing that paper form to individual households. So unfortunately, as -- at an office, at a facility, you cannot have blank copies of the form available. However, you can have a bunch of information available. You can have iPads or computers available for folks to respond to the census online. So a lot of libraries actually are really stepping up and going to have some of these opportunities available for folks in their community.

They're working really closely with the American Library Association to have librarians trained to know kind of some of these facts about the census. And they'll have census stations, if you will, where people can access their computers. They can go online and fill out the form. You can provide the number to people to call the census bureau and respond online. You can have sample questions available, absolutely, at your facility as the exact list of questions are available online. But, again, that paper form that needs to go through the mail, that can't be shared at different -- at places like that. But in terms of the online feature and the on -- and the phone feature, you can absolutely share that information so folks can do that in any type of facility that you're on.

Definitely modeling after what the American Library Association is doing is fantastic. Claire, do you want to add -- sorry, Julie, do you want to add anything to that?

>> JULIE WARD: No, I think that was an excellent answer. I was wondering if I could take a second to try to address another thing that I've seen come up in the chat.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: For sure, yes.

>> JULIE WARD: If that would be okay. People have ask about how many -- do you have to answer every question in the nine questions that are a part of the census and what happens if you don't. And the answer is basically, yes, you need to answer every question. And they -- the census will, in fact, come back and follow up with you if your census form is viewed as incomplete. What the census bureau has not been able to confirm for us yet is it incomplete if only one question isn't answered or does it have to be several questions. So we're still trying to track down the correct answer to that.

But I think as a rule of thumb, our advice needs to be please fill out all the questions to the best of your ability.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: All right. Excellent. Thank you so much, Julie. Adrian, do we have any other questions on the phone line that are in the queue.

>> Yes, Margot Waters, your line is open.

>> Yes. This is Margot again. So I kind of was a little late. Are these notes available after the meeting is over?

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Yes. Thank you so much. They will be available. Folks will have access to them as we're going to be sending out the recording to all of those who registered after along with the presentation slides. So absolutely, if you need them

immediately, please feel free to e-mail me. My e-mail will be shown here at the end which is erika.hudson@NDRN.org. I'm happy to send them your way. If you registered, which I think most folks did because you're here, we'll be able to share all these materials without a problem. Thank you so much for highlighting that.

>> Thank you.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: One thing I wanted to wrap us up with, as we are approaching the end here of our webinar, is to talk about the timeline. Since we've had some additional questions about this. To be clear, the census actually already started in remote areas of Alaska. I think we had some folks in Alaska even on this webinar today, which is super excited. And that's because of some of the geographical areas of Alaska, they needed to get started. My understanding, as we get closer into the spring, the ice melts and then planes can't come down. For most of the country, folks will start receiving those mailers starting March 12th. So that's less than one month away, folks, to when people will start receiving these mails. People can start self-responding to the census as early as March 12th.

And then throughout April, people will still be able to self-respond between May and July, census takers will start visiting households. Again, if you hadn't self-responded, you'll see census takers visiting then. By the end of July, that's when the official count will be ended. That's kind of the timeline that we're looking at. All of this information is available on the census bureau's website and the official 2020 census web page. That link is on the left-hand screen. Before closing us out, I want to see if Julie has anything else to add. Other than that, we do have to wrap up today's presentation. Just for me, thank you all so much. It's been an absolute pleasure. Feel free to contact us if we didn't get to your question, but thank you, thank you to everyone and thank you to our operator, Adrian, and everyone here who helped us put this together including Charles and Marsha. Julie, anything else you wanted to add?

>> JULIE WARD: I just wanted to thank everyone as well. It's been a terrific opportunity. I appreciate working with NDRN and I appreciate all the wonderful comments in the chat. This gives -- will give me some work to do in the next couple weeks. So thank you.

>> ERIKA HUDSON: Super exciting! Again, Adrian, thank you for all your help. Julie's and I's e-mails are on the page. We'll be sure to follow up with people so you have all the resources. May the census be ever in our favor, folks. Good luck with your get out the count efforts. We are so incredibly grateful that you tuned in today. Just make census to talk about it. So enjoy and thank you all so much.

>> Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, this concludes today's conference. Thank you for participating. You may now disconnect.

[Webcast concluded at 3:01 p.m. ET]