



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201 www.acf.hhs.gov

February 11, 2019

Dear Colleague:

The U.S. Census Bureau performs a census of the nation's inhabitants every tenth year. The 2020 census is approaching, and the Census Bureau will be conducting nationwide hiring shortly, looking to recruit and temporarily employ people to fill hundreds of thousands of paid, part-time positions. In the past, the Census Bureau has successfully recruited Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) participants to help fill these vacancies, and wishes to do so again for the upcoming census.

The Office of Family Assistance encourages states and tribes to disregard income that TANF recipients receive as census employees in TANF benefit calculations. Doing so would mean TANF recipients continue to receive TANF without reduction while helping the Census Bureau and gaining work experience. States and tribes may choose to implement the exemption period in one of several ways. For example, the exemptions could begin on specific dates, anytime within given periods, or the first day of temporary census employment in each year.

The vast majority of census employees will be enumerators, who conduct fieldwork such as updating addresses and interviewing residents. These positions will last an average of about four to eight weeks, have intermittent schedules of between 20 and 35 hours per week, provide no medical or other benefits, may require reimbursable travel, will be paid at a rate based on the average pay for the localities where they will work, and will not lead to permanent employment at the Census Bureau. Most positions are part of either the address canvassing operations, which will take place between July 26, 2019, and October 11, 2019, or nonresponse follow-up operations, which will be conducted nationwide between March 30, 2020, and July 31, 2020.

Encouraging TANF recipients to participate in census employment by ensuring they do not lose benefits is critical to the Census Bureau's work. There are high concentrations of public financial assistance recipients on American Indian reservations and in low-income areas, which are typically hard-to-enumerate locations. Since people are hired to work from their homes and within their neighborhoods, TANF recipients can play vital roles in establishing an accurate and timely count, which in turn affects allocated seats in the House of Representatives and Federal funding distribution. In addition, the temporary jobs available during the census count may help TANF agencies meet their work participation rates. Census work also provides valuable training and job skills, and can help move many TANF recipients into the workforce.

TANF recipients may apply online at 2020census.gov/jobs or get more information about jobs by calling 1-855-JOB-2020 (1-855-562-2020). If state or tribal TANF programs have questions, please contact Helena Carapellatti at 301-763-6265 or Helena.carapellatti@census.gov, or Clarice Floyd at 301-763-2974 or clarice.a.floyd@census.gov.

Sincerely,

Clarence H. Carter
Director
Office of Family Assistance