

California Complete Count – Census 2020 Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights Limited English Proficiency

English proficiency is strongly correlated to an individual's intent to complete the Census questionnaire. Limited English Proficient (LEP) individual is defined as anyone five years old and over who speaks a language other than English at home and speaks English less than "very well."

LEP populations may have additional characteristics that are barriers to Census participation and make them particularly hard-to-count, which includes being newcomers, refugees, or asylees; low educational attainment or illiteracy; low digital literacy; lack of access to broadband; socioeconomic barriers; lack of understanding of the civic process; and heightened distrust in government, especially among mixed-status families.

The California Census Office has developed the Language and Communication Access Plan (LACAP) which aims to ensure that language and communication access is linguistically and culturally appropriate and provides equal and meaningful access to California's vulnerable populations. The LACAP outlines requirements for the State's contracted partners.

The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) is using the trust their organization has built in immigrant communities, especially hard-to-count LEP households, to effectively conduct outreach. CHIRLA's existing Community Education and Outreach infrastructure includes regional outreach workers and a hotline that reaches Spanish speakers and English Language Learners. CHIRLA's toll-free Immigrant Access Hotline is an effective referral and information resource that will be leveraged to provide Census education.

The geographic areas CHIRLA plans to cover are 64 cities in the Northern Central Valley, San Fernando Valley, Southeast Los Angeles County, Northern Orange County, South Los Angeles County, East Los Angeles County, and Downtown Los Angeles.

WEBSITE https://www.chirla.org/

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