COUNTDOWN to CENSUS DAY!

CENSUS 2000: RACE, HISPANIC ORIGIN, and ANCESTRY

April 1, 2000 is just 11 months away. Each issue of the *Utah Data Guide* will include articles relating to Census 2000, and a calendar outlining activities that will take place prior to and following Census 2000.

1999

February-June
- Field check of all urban addresses

May
- 1999 Western State Data Center Meeting in Reno, NV

August-September
- Remaining local census offices open in Utah

October
- 1999 National State Data Center Meeting in Washington, D.C.

2000

January-March
- Recruiting
- Special population counts

March
- Questionnaires delivered (by mail or door-to-door)
- Enumeration in rural or remote areas
- Special place enumeration

APRIL 1, 2000
CENSUS DAY!

April-May 30
- Be counted campaign
- Non-response follow-up
- Quality check survey conducted

December 31, 2000
- Count of U.S. by states delivered to the President with reapportionment counts

2001

April 1, 2001
- All states receive redistricting counts

WHY WILL CENSUS 2000 ASK ABOUT RACE, HISPANIC ORIGIN, AND ANCESTRY?
People who answer the census help their communities obtain federal funds and valuable information for planning schools, hospitals, and roads. Census information also helps identify areas where residents might need services of particular interest to certain racial or ethnic groups.

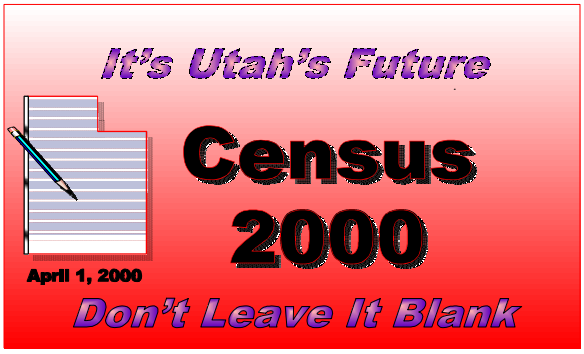
All levels of government need information on race, Hispanic origin, and ancestry to implement and evaluate programs such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, Civil Rights Act, Fair Housing Act, and others. Also, both public and private organizations use this data to find areas where groups may need special services and to plan and implement education, housing, health, and other programs that address these needs. For example, a school system might use this information to design cultural activities that reflect the diversity in their community, or a business could use it to select the mix of merchandise it will sell in a new store.

For the first time ever, people answering the census will be able to select more than one racial category to indicate mixed racial heritage. The groups shown in the census race question collapse into six race groups needed by the federal government: White, Black, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific Islanders. People who mark the American Indian and Alaska Native category are asked to provide the name of their principal or enrolled tribe. People who say they are "Other Asian," or "Other Pacific Islander," and/or "Some Other Race" category are asked to write in their race.

The Hispanic origin question on the questionnaire must be answered by EVERYONE. Those who are not of Hispanic origin are asked to mark the box "NO, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino." People who are of Hispanic origin are asked to indicate the specific group they belong to: Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, or other groups, such as Spanish, Honduran, or Venezuelan.

HOW DO I ANSWER THE ANCESTRY QUESTION?
Ancestry refers to an individual's nationality, lineage, or country in which the individual or the individual's parents or ancestors were born before their arrival in the United States. Examples of ancestries are Polish, Jamaican, Egyptian, and Taiwanese. The ancestry question permits people to identify groups not listed in the race and Hispanic Origin questions, such as Dominican, Lebanese, Cambodian, or Dutch. Ancestry is asked only on the long form- the longer questionnaire that goes out to one in six households. This sample is large enough to produce reliable information for all but the smallest areas.

Promoting Census 2000: Utah's Logo

The logo shown here will be used in the Utah State Data Center's efforts to promote Census 2000. The State Data Center recognizes the need for an accurate and complete count of Utah's population. Census 2000 will be the information cornerstone for the next decade. Billions of dollars of federal, state and local funds will be spent on thousands of projects across our nation. How and where that money is spent depends on the census numbers. For example, decisions about education, health care, job training and business are based on information about children, the elderly, the unemployed or underemployed. Moreover, the development of public transportation systems and traffic control are based on where people work and live. Census 2000 is our chance to make sure that the new century begins with an accurate and complete picture of our community.

The logo borrows from one of the Census Bureau's taglines "It's Your future, Don't Leave It Blank." Look for the logo on Census 2000 promotional material produced by the Utah State Data Center.