HOUSEHOLD LIVING SCENARIOS:
WHO COUNTS WHERE?

Remember: Your household’s 2020 Census response should count everyone who lives at your address all or most of the time.

Multi-generational households
Blanca lives with her partner, adult daughter, and two grandchildren, ages 2 and 4. Her adult daughter pays rent and financially supports her own children.

Who should be counted on Blanca’s Census?
Blanca should count her partner, adult daughter and her two grandchildren. Even though Blanca’s daughter provides support for her own children and pays rent, she and her children are part of Blanca’s household and should be included.

Multi-family dwellings
George and his wife and son live in a house that they rent. Another unrelated family lives in the home—a couple with a newborn baby.

Who should be counted on George’s Census?
George should report six total individuals on his Census form—himself, his wife, and his son, as well as the other family residing in his home. Though George may be concerned that he will be penalized for additional residents not disclosed on his lease, Census workers are prohibited from sharing personal, identifiable information with other agencies, including municipal code enforcement and landlords.

Children in foster care families
Since the beginning of January 2020, 12-year-old Jessie has resided in multiple foster homes. She has not been at any placement for a prolonged period, but on April 1, 2020, Jessie lives in a foster home located in Middlesex County.

Where should Jessie be counted?
Because Jessie has moved many times and does not have a usual place of residence, she should be counted wherever she lives on April 1, 2020. Jessie’s foster parents in Middlesex County should include her on their form.

Living in group homes
Anthony’s parents live in Burlington County with his two siblings. Anthony lives in a group home in Mercer County. His parents provide all of his financial support. However, his daily care is managed by the staff at the group home.

Where should Anthony be counted?
Because Anthony’s usual place of residence is his group home, Anthony should be counted at the group home. Group homes are part of a special count, known as “group quarters enumeration.” The staff at Anthony’s group home will be responsible for including him on the Census counts for the facility. Anthony’s parents should not include him on their household response; they will only count themselves and Anthony’s siblings.
Child away at university
Mr. and Mrs. Jones have two children—Corey, who is a high school junior, and Jordan, a sophomore at Stockton University. Jordan lives on Stockton’s campus in a dorm.

Who should be counted on the Jones’ Census?
Mr. and Mrs. Jones should include themselves and Corey (three people)—not Jordan. Because Jordan’s usual place of residence is his dorm on Stockton’s campus, he should be counted at his dorm. The University will be responsible for ensuring that all students living on campus are counted in the Census.

Newborn children
Michelle and Darren’s first child was born on March 3, 2020. They received their Census mailer that same month.

Who should be counted on Michelle and Darren’s Census?
Michelle, Darren and their newborn baby should all be included on their household Census response. Every baby born on April 1, 2020 or before should be included. The next Census count will not occur until 2030—when their “baby” will be 10 years old!

Highly mobile families
Cameron and his mother, Janet, lived with Janet’s sister for two months beginning in January. Since then, they have been living at several different family members’ homes, bouncing back and forth between the homes of Janet’s godmother and a close friend. On April 1, 2020, Cameron and Janet stay with Janet’s godmother.

Where should Cameron and Janet be counted?
Because Cameron and his mother do not have a usual place of residence, they should be counted wherever they are living on April 1, 2020. This means that Janet and Cameron should be included on the Census response submitted by Janet’s godmother.

Forgot to include members of the household
Maya and her 3-year-old daughter, Chloe, live with her aunt and uncle—Linda and Harold. She believes that Linda and Harold completed their Census online but did not include Maya or Chloe. Maya knows that she and Chloe need to be counted, but she is unsure how to complete her Census.

How should Maya and Chloe be counted?
Maya should respond and count everyone living in the household, including Chloe, Linda and Harold. Maya can respond to the Census online or over the phone using her address, or by using the original code mailed to her address. The Census Bureau will later match Maya’s responses with Linda and Harold’s using their address information and remove any duplicates.

Split custody arrangement
Emily is 5 years old and her parents are divorced. Her parents live in separate homes and they split Emily’s time between both homes throughout the year.

Where should Emily be counted?
Emily should be counted in whichever home she lives in most of the time. If she lives equal amounts of time in both homes, then Emily should be counted where she is staying on April 1, 2020. Emily’s parents, if possible, should make sure that she is only counted once.