

A Message From  
**ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
HARVEY EPSTEIN**



Dear Neighbor,

As this crisis wears on, we continue to work with community groups to provide essential service, such as food delivery, to East Siders. I remain impressed but not surprised at how our community comes together in a crisis to help each other. **If you need food, help applying for unemployment, accessing aid for small businesses, have questions about your child's education, or anything else, reach out to our office at 212-979-9696 and leave a message. My staff and I are working quickly to promptly return calls. You can also email [help.district74@gmail.com](mailto:help.district74@gmail.com) for help from a staffer.**

The coronavirus pandemic is rapidly changing our daily routines, including how New Yorkers will vote in the June 23rd primary. You may now vote by absentee ballot and return it via mail or in-person. For information on the process visit: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/>.

Below you will find information about the resources available to you during this crisis and what our office is doing to help.

See you around the district,

Harvey

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**In This Newsletter:**

1. Upcoming Events
    1. Supporting New York City's College Students Through Crisis and Beyond - 4/30 1PM
    2. MBP Brewer's Virtual Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Town Hall - 4/22 3PM
  2. Need Help Getting Your \$1200 From the Federal Government?
  3. We Are in Jeopardy: Low Census Response Rate
  4. Cancellation of Certain Public Events in May and June
  5. NYC Sanitation Announces Service Changes Related to COVID-19 Budget Cuts
  6. How to Adapt Organizing
  7. Food Safety
  8. Resources and Ways to Help
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## Upcoming Events


*Supporting New York City's College Students Through Crisis and Beyond - 4/30 1PM*



**YOUNG  INVINCIBLES**

**Supporting New York City's College Students Through Crisis and Beyond**

*Join Young Invincibles and New York leaders for a town hall on what the COVID-19 crisis has meant for New York's college students.*



NYS Assemblymember  
Harvey Epstein



NYS Senator Toby Ann  
Stavisky

What: A Student-Led Town Hall:  
*Supporting New York City's College Students Through Crisis and Beyond*

When: Thursday, April 30, 1:00-2:30 pm

Where: via Zoom. You'll receive a Zoom link after registering.

**#YINYTownHall & #BePartOfTheChange**

**Follow us:**

-  @together.invincible
-  @younginvincible
-  @younginvincibles

**Spaces are limited. Register today at: <https://bit.ly/NYtownhall>**  
***Registration is required.***

On Thursday, April 30 at 1PM please join Young Invincibles for a student-led town hall, on "Supporting New York City's College Students Through Crisis and Beyond." You'll hear from New York City's college students on how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting their education, NYS Senator Toby Ann Stavisky and I will discuss how the state can support its students. [Registration](#) is required. Click [here](#) to register.

*MBP Brewer's Virtual Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Town Hall - 4/22 3PM*

This Wednesday (4/22), Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer is hosting a virtual Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Town Hall at 3:00 pm. I'll be moderating an hour-long panel on the importance of SYEP and efforts to save it, featuring the Children's Aid Society's Sandino Sanchez, Catholic Charities' Eddie Silverio, the Harlem Boys and Girls' Club's Dominique Jones, the Chinese-American Planning Council's Wayne Ho, and the United Neighborhood Houses' J.T. Falcone. Register [here](#) to get a Zoom log-in link.

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## Need Help Getting Your \$1200 From the Federal Government?

NYS is launching an awareness campaign to help ensure that New Yorkers who need it most claim their Economic Impact Payments under the CARES Act. The CARES Act provides \$1,200 payments to individuals making below \$75,000 and \$2,400 payments to married couples making below \$150,000. Many taxpayers who filed 2018 or 2019 federal tax returns will receive them automatically into their bank account.

Learn more on the Tax Department's Economic Impact Payment [information webpage](#). The Tax Department will also partner with other state agencies and local community organizations to do direct outreach to make sure New Yorkers in need can access their payments.

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## We Are in Jeopardy: Low Census Response Rate

One hundred percent of staff have completed the census but our community's response to the 2020 Census is lagging -- see for yourself: <https://nyc2020censusmap.hesterstreet.org>. Now that our economy is in crisis, it's more important than ever to ensure an accurate count so we can secure the resources and representation New York needs to rebuild. [I did the census](#), you can too.

If you have not filled out the Census, take 5 minutes and do it today at <https://2020census.gov>.

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## Cancellation of Certain Public Events in May and June

The Mayor announced on Monday that non-essential permitted events in May and June have been cancelled. This includes parades, concerts, rallies, and large gatherings. Like many New Yorkers, I am disappointed that these events, like the Pride Parade and Puerto Rican day Parade, are cancelled. But I understand that we are in the midst of a public health crisis and we must make sacrifices to protect New Yorkers' health. I hope these events will be rescheduled.

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## NYC Sanitation Announces Service Changes Related to COVID-19 Budget Cuts

- Curbside Composting Temporarily Suspended Beginning May 4
- Electronics Collection Appointments Discontinued

In the face of economic hardship, and to ensure the City can continue to devote resources to essential safety, health, and shelter, and food security needs, the New York City Department of Sanitation announced the suspension of the curbside composting program, beginning **May 4, 2020**. During the suspension, any food scraps and yard waste set out for composting will be collected as trash. The suspension is currently planned through June 30, 2021. Residents with brown bins should store their bins in a safe location for the duration of the suspension.

This is deeply disappointing to me as an avid composter. We have created composting infrastructure and worked for years. Now, in the middle of the climate crisis, we are moving backwards. I will begin to look into other options available to all of us soon and push back on this administration's mistaken approach here.

DSNY also announced the indefinite suspension of appointments for curbside electronics collection, which had been halted due to the COVID-19 crisis. Again, such a mistake and a poor choice on behalf of the city.

There are no changes to the Department's other curbside collection programs, including trash and mandatory recycling. Residents should follow their normal schedule and place their material at the curb after 4 p.m. but before midnight the evening before their collection day.

Curbside Composting:

**Starting Monday, May 4, 2020 residents who use their brown bins for curbside composting should discard food scraps and yard waste with their trash.** Trash should be put out for collection in securely tied heavy-duty bags or leak proof receptacles with tightly fitting lids. Any food scraps and yard waste set out for collection on or after May 4th will be collected as trash.

This is a temporary suspension, and residents should keep their bins for when service resumes. Brown compost bins belong to the address where they were originally delivered. DSNY will not collect brown bins. After your last collection, use soap and water to clean your bin and place it in storage for when the program resumes. Do not leave your bins on the curb. Food Scrap Drop-off Sites have been temporarily closed due to social distancing mandates. The Department will determine the feasibility of reopening certain Food Scrap Drop-off Sites at a later date.

**Residents are encouraged to make compost on their own if they have the space to do so. Learn how to compost at home at [nyc.gov/recyclingmaterials](https://nyc.gov/recyclingmaterials) and click "Food Scraps + Yard Waste."**

Appointments for curbside electronics collection:

New York State law prohibits the disposal of certain e-waste items, like computers, printers and televisions, with your trash and recycling. DSNY announced a temporary suspension of curbside electronics collection last month to allow us to better provide our essential services. This suspension has been extended indefinitely.

Though the current crisis has caused temporary changes to some other e-waste disposal programs, residents looking to get rid of e-waste will be able to find other opportunities as conditions allow at [nyc.gov/electronics](https://nyc.gov/electronics).

For further updates, residents should call 311, visit [nyc.gov/sanitation](https://nyc.gov/sanitation) or follow @nycsanitation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

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## How to Adapt Organizing

Check out North Star Fund's good list of resources on how to adapt organizing during this crisis moment:

- [Coronavirus information for nonprofits](#) via Lawyers Alliance
- [Digital security and resilience in the time of coronavirus](#)
- [Resources for organizers, campaigners and digital strategists to respond to coronavirus](#)
- [Tips, tools, and examples for event organizers during the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- [Working during COVID-19: How to be good at video meetings](#)
- [How To Facilitate Effective Virtual Meetings](#) by Beth Kanter
- [Tips for Online Retreats and Meetings](#)
- [Digital Organizing Toolkit](#) from Community Change Action
- [Racial Equity Tools for COVID-19](#)

- [Tough Times Call for Tough Action: A Decision Framework for Nonprofit Leaders and Boards](#)
- [Resources for Advocacy During COVID-19](#)
- [Resources from Funders for LGBTQ Issues](#)
- [Immediate support to help grantees ramp up on digital tools and tactics to build power](#) from Social Movement Technologies
- [How to Cultivate Meaningful Online Gatherings](#) by David Ehrlichman
- [Primer on SBA Paycheck Protection Loans and Loan Forgiveness](#)

North Star Fund has other resources for non-profits in their latest news letter. Check it out [here](#) and consider subscribing.

## **Food Safety**

Cornell's Institute for Food Safety has been working to keep our food system strong & assist farmers and food processors in knowing how to take increased precautions to protect their workers and ensure food safety. We've also been answering a large volume of consumer questions about food safety in a time of COVID-19. The website below has a listing of FAQ's asked of Cornell's food scientists, and science based answers that may be helpful in responding to consumer questions regarding food safety. H/T Julie from Cornell.

<https://instituteforfoodsafety.cornell.edu/coronavirus-covid-19/food-safety-recommendation-consumer/>

COVID-19 response: Need information? View the following Cornell CALS and CCE Resource Pages Updated Regularly

- General Questions & Links: <https://eden.cce.cornell.edu/>
- Food Production, Processing & Safety Questions: <https://instituteforfoodsafety.cornell.edu/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Employment & Agricultural Workforce Questions: <http://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/>
- Cornell Small Farms Resiliency Resources: <https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/resources/farm-resilience/>
- Financial & Mental Health Resources for Farmers: <https://www.nyfarmnet.org/>
- Information for Farm Employees Including Spanish & Mam Language videos on COVID-19: <https://www.trabajadores.cornell.edu/> and [www.farmworkers.cornell.edu](http://www.farmworkers.cornell.edu)

Dairy Specific Resources: <https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu>

## **Resources and Ways to Help**

Our Resources List: Our office has compiled a list of resources to help constituents who need food, help with paying, rent, applying for unemployment, and other common issues. Check it out [here](#). We are working to update it as new resources and information become available.

### **What's Open In The East Village Area During COVID-19?**

A directory of essential businesses that are open in the East Village area during COVID-19: <http://whatsopenev.com>

## **For Small Businesses:**

The US Chamber of Commerce Foundation will start offering small business grants of \$5,000.

- To qualify, a business must:
  - Employ between 3 and 20 people
  - Be located in an economically vulnerable community (such as Harlem, Washington Heights or the Lower East Side of Manhattan)
  - Have been harmed financially by the COVID-19 pandemic

The application is short. It will take about 10 minutes to complete. All you will need is your business's W-9 form. Grants will be awarded on a weekly basis, but you only need to apply one time to be eligible for funding. [Apply here](#).

The Small Business Legal Relief Alliance is providing legal assistance to small businesses and nonprofits struggling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Who is eligible?**

- (1) Small businesses
- (2) Self-employed
- (3) Nonprofits
- (4) Cooperatives

## **What issues can SBLRA assist with?**

1. Loan & Grant Programs (What programs are right for me and how do I apply?)
2. Tax (What are the tax implications of raising funds for employees?)
3. Commercial Leases (Do I need to pay rent next month? How do I negotiate?)
4. Contracts (What to do if the crisis prevents me or another party from performing?)
5. Employment (What should I consider if I need to let employees go?)
6. Insurance (Does my policy cover loss of income?)
7. Intellectual Property (How do I protect my work and trademarks?)
8. Other General Business Issues Interested?

## **Contact any of us at the email addresses below:**

VOLS: [microenterprise@volsprobono.org](mailto:microenterprise@volsprobono.org)

IMPACCT: [dale\\_charles@impacctbk.org](mailto:dale_charles@impacctbk.org)

Julian Hill: <https://takerootjustice.org/areas/capacity/> and 929-506-0303

Legal Aid Society: [communitydevproject@legal-aid.org](mailto:communitydevproject@legal-aid.org) and 212-426-3000

Legal Services: <https://www.legalservicesnyc.org/what-we-do/covid-resources> and 917-661-4500

Lawyers for Good Government launched a COVID-19 Small Business Remote Legal Clinic - learn more here: <https://www.lawyersforgoodgovernment.org/covid-smallbusiness>

### **A nationwide program to help small businesses affected by COVID-19**

Grants for Cultural Organizations: The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has issued guidance on applying for the \$75 million it was allocated in the CARES Act. If a nonprofit cultural organization has received NEA support in the last four fiscal years, they are eligible to apply for a direct grant. [Apply](#) by April 22!

Financial Empowerment Guidance: New York City Financial Empowerment Center counselors are available to support those experiencing financial challenges. Book an appointment [here](#).

**One Week of Free Groceries:** The Department of Probation, Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) Nutrition Kitchens, in partnership with the Food Bank of NYC and the NYC Young Men's Initiative (YMI) have opened five kitchens – one in each borough – to distribute free food, available to any New Yorker who needs it visit [here](#).

COVID-19 Resource Guide for Immigrants: NYC has put out a resource guide specifically for immigrant communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit [here](#). Please help by passing it along. Also, FYI, this week is Immigrant Heritage Week!

**For DACA Recipients:** For help renewing your application call ActionNYC at 1-800-354-0365 (we may even be able to help you out with the renewal fee). More info from the MOIA Commissioner can be found here: <https://twitter.com/NYCImmigrants/status/1247633689657454593>

**Job Opportunities at H+H:** NYC Health and Hospitals needs workers to help transport patients, clerical staff and cleaning staff. You can apply today at <http://nyc.gov/coronavirus>. Spread the word: <https://twitter.com/NYCMayor/status/1249371220811952136>

**NYC COVID-19 Engagement Portal:** DOITT has developed a [portal](#), to help guide the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The portal is available in 11 languages and allows New Yorkers to self-report COVID-19 information and will help New York City both better communicate with affected people and identify areas that may need enhanced response. Inputs are confidential. People without internet access or who need help, can call 311.

**Tutoring:** Edumate is connecting NYC public school students with free, virtual tutoring in this time of need.

- Students and families, sign up here: [students.edumatenyc.org](https://students.edumatenyc.org)
- Potential tutors, sign up here: [tutors.edumatenyc.org](https://tutors.edumatenyc.org)
- For more information about our program, visit [edumatenyc.org](https://edumatenyc.org)

### **Supplies:**

Please visit our website for information on ways New Yorkers can get and offer help with all issues related to COVID-19: [Help Now NYC](#).

Individuals, Organizations or Companies offering to [DONATE PPE](#).

Companies with stock on hand offering to [DONATE or SELL medical supplies and equipment](#), or Local manufacturers looking to [begin producing supplies](#) (e.g. gowns, masks, ventilators, face shields). Those offers will be vetted and the city will follow up if there is interest.

Food and other non-medical donations should go through [donateNYC](#). Anyone who wants to donate can call: 1-833-NYC-0040.

**Information about space:** NYC is still identifying and standing up new hospital capacity. We are particularly interested in private spaces that may not be yet on our radar. For those you know who have space they want to offer, please have them fill out this space survey here: [Share Your Space Survey](#).

**Mental Health Resources:** This is a stressful time for New Yorkers. Resources are available for New Yorkers by contacting 1-888-NYC-WELL or Texting "WELL" to 65173. For more information visit [NYC Well](#).

**Friendly Visiting Program:** We're also connecting older New Yorkers who are feeling isolated with friendly volunteers to talk with over the phone. Tell your constituents they can call 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469).

**Family Justice Centers:** While the centers are physically closed, anyone can call any of our borough centers for help with safety planning, mental health and planning, legal help, or help in connecting to law enforcement agencies. For more information please visit the website [here](#) or call our 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-621-4673.

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## Job Opportunities

- Job Opportunities at H+H: NYC Health and Hospitals needs workers to help transport patients, clerical staff and cleaning staff. You can apply today at <http://nyc.gov/coronavirus>. Spread the word: <https://twitter.com/NYCMayor/status/1249371220811952136>
- [Multiple positions](#), ACLU
- [Executive director](#), ASISTA
- [Multiple positions](#), Bend the Arc
- [Asian Tenants Union Chinese membership organizer](#), CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities
- [Summer intern](#), Center for Urban Pedagogy
- [Multiple positions](#), Communities United for Police Reform
- [Development consultant \(PDF\)](#), Equality for Flatbush
- [President \(PDF\)](#), Funders for LGBTQ Issues
- [Multiple positions](#), Grassroots Global Justice
- [Multiple positions](#), María Fund
- [Community outreach and organizing intern](#), New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
- [Multiple positions](#), New York Women's Foundation
- [Multiple positions](#), Open Society Foundations
- [Executive director \(PDF\)](#), Our Climate
- [Co-executive director](#), Partners for Dignity & Rights
- [Program Director](#), Transforming Power Fund (Detroit)
- [Chief strategy officer](#), Trevor Project



- [Multiple positions](#), UndocuBlack Network
- [Education and Outreach Director](#), UnLocal
- [Labor and employment paralegal](#), Worker Justice Center of New York
- [Interested: Social Justice Jobs Newsletter](#)

## From April 17th

Dear Neighbor,

I feel privileged to be able to join with so many other East Siders and New Yorkers who are stepping up to help our neighbors, including CityHarvest, Vision Urbana, and a Beam Living from Stuyvesant Town and Kips Bay. We have been working together to ensure that elderly and/or low-income residents who need food during this crisis can have it safely delivered to them at no cost.

Our office has also been reaching out to constituents with the help of volunteers to make sure they are taken care of during this crisis. If you need help filing for unemployment, obtaining SNAP benefits, paying rent, have a small business issue, or have another concern, please call my office at 212-979-9696 and leave a message or send an email to [help.district74@gmail.com](mailto:help.district74@gmail.com). My staff and I will work to promptly return your call or email.

If you can volunteer, please email us as well. We need all the help we can get to make phone calls, put up posters or distribute food. If you can help, help in the way you feel comfortable doing.

While fatalities and hospitalizations due to the coronavirus are trending down, Governor Cuomo announced yesterday that NYS PAUSE has been extended until May 15th. This means that non-essential businesses will remain closed, social distancing requirements will continue to be enforced, and so will wearing face coverings in public starting today at 8pm. Read more about that below.

Hope to see you today at our Hang with Harvey today at 5:30pm. Join me for a question or just raise a glass with me and others who are helping flatten the curve.

Harvey

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### In This Newsletter:

1. Upcoming Events:
  1. TONIGHT: Virtual Hang with Harvey Happy Hour (5:30pm - 6:30pm) : [Register here!](#)
2. NYS PAUSE Extended to May 15th
3. Update on Absentee Ballot Voting
4. City Bar Justice Center's Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project
5. How Some financial well off folks Are Getting Stimulus 'Checks' Averaging \$1.7 Million
6. Advocates for Children of New York's Education Helpline
7. Census Video Prize Challenge extended to May 7!

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**NYS PAUSE Extended to May 15th**

Governor Cuomo announced yesterday all NYS on Pause restrictions and closures will be extended until May 15th. This action is taken in consultation with other regional states. The states will re-evaluate after this additional closure period.

The Governor also directed all New Yorkers to wear masks or face coverings on public transportation systems and while taking private transportation or riding in for-hire vehicles. Additionally, all operators of public systems, private carriers and for-hire vehicles must wear a mask or face covering at all times while working. These directives expand on the Executive Order [announced](#) by the Governor yesterday requiring all people in New York to wear a mask or a face covering when out in public and in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained. The Executive Order will go into effect today, Friday, April 17th, at 8 PM.

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### **Update on Absentee Ballot Voting**

In my last email to you all, I gave instructions from the NYS Board of Elections website on how to apply for an absentee ballot for the upcoming June 23rd election. It has been brought to my attention that the information on the Board of Elections website has yet to be updated with the necessary instructions to ensure you can vote safely in the next election. My staff was in touch with the Governor's office about this issue to make sure the instructions on the Board of Elections website are correct and up to date. In addition to the Board of Elections not providing accurate information, I also flagged their lack of language accessibility in their online forms. I have always supported making voting more accessible - especially now. I will continue working to ensure absentee ballot voting is seamless so that you can make sure your voices are heard.

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### **How Some Financially Well of folks Are Getting Stimulus 'Checks' Averaging \$1.7 Million**

I found this [article](#) deeply disturbing. At a time when tens of millions of Americans are losing their jobs, the stimulus package signed by the President smuggled in a \$90 billion dollar tax break for capital gains earnings, which applies retroactively to 2018 and 2019. It's a shameless display of greed and an attack on everyday Americans who are hurting during this crisis. In this moment especially we need to consider raising taxes on the wealthiest--not giving them handouts they don't need--and on the big corporations who can afford to pay for the essential public services on which so many regular people rely.

If you are looking for an update on the status of your federal stimulus check, you [can look here!](#)

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### **City Bar Justice Center's Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project**

In partnership with L4GG and several New York City law firms, NELP has launched the [COVID-19 Remote Small Business Legal Clinic](#) (CV-19 Clinic). The CV-19 Clinic will offer limited scope pro bono legal consultations to entrepreneurs and small business owners (with fewer than 100 employees) to help them understand and act upon options available under the federal government's COVID-19 stimulus package and other opportunities available through federal, state and local programs. CV-19 Clinic consultations will also prepare clients to navigate broader legal issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Small business owners will be able to receive advice in the following areas: small business loans & grants, contracts & force majeure clauses, employment law matters, real estate and commercial leasing Issues, and insurance matters.

To participate in the CV-19 Clinic, NYC entrepreneurs and small business owners seeking COVID-19-related legal advice can put in a request for assistance by filling out our online [intake form](#). Qualified applicants can expect to be contacted by an attorney within 3 business days.

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## **Advocates for Children of New York's Education Helpline**

Advocates for Children of New York's Education Helpline is continuing to help families during the period of school closure. If you have questions about education you can speak with an education specialist Monday-Thursday, 10am-4pm, by calling our toll free number at 866-427-6033.

They are also posting education updates at <https://www.advocatesforchildren.org/covid-19-updates> and sending weekly bulletins with the latest education information.

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### **Census Video Prize Challenge extended to May 7!**

We hope this note finds you well and that you're navigating this new normal safely. Census Accelerate, an initiative of the [Census Open Innovation Labs](#), at the U.S. Census Bureau, has launched its first-ever video prize competition to reward the most engaging, impactful and informative videos about the 2020 Census - with a total of \$50,000 in cash prizes. Census Accelerate has partnered with national and local advocacy groups, entertainment industry, federal, state and local government, as well as civic engagement groups to leverage outreach efforts of cross-sector organizations dedicated to ensuring a complete and accurate count. Now, we're challenging civically engaged content creators and organizations in supporting a complete count of your communities by [submitting your outreach videos](#).

Due to feedback and sensitivity to [rapidly evolving developments](#) with the public health environment and the [2020 Census operational timeline](#), we've extended the deadline for video submissions to May 7th at 11:59pm EDT.

- Grand Prize - \$30,000, Runner Up \$10,000, Student Prize \$10,000
- Video should be 30 sec to 3 min
- Extended Deadline: May 7th
- We want you to remain socially distanced and are understanding that videos will be limited to what you can produce while at home. Judges will factor that into their evaluation.
- Videos should speak to a [hard to count community](#).
- Content should align with the 'reminder phase' of the census: "It's not too late to respond either online, via phone, or by mail."
- Please see [FAQ's here](#).
- Join us for an [Info Session/ Video Prep event](#) on April 23rd from 3:00-5:00pm EDT.

Please contact [census.accelerate@census.gov](mailto:census.accelerate@census.gov) if you have any questions.

If you would like to unsubscribe and stop receiving emails from this Assemblymember [click here](#)

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