

Census-based funding is critical to health care

Once every decade, each of us has an opportunity to be counted, literally, by participating in the



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United States census. The blueprint for our country's system of representative government, the Constitution, outlines the specific formula to ensure that each of us has repre-

sentation at the federal level.

This aspect was so important to our Founding Fathers that it was one of the first items in the document.

Article I, Section. 2: "Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States ... according to their respective Numbers The Number of Representa-

tives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand ..."

In this same section, it establishes the legal authority to count the citizens every 10 years – the census.

MY TURN

Today, with a national population of more than 300 million, data collected by the census directly affects us in many ways, including the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

We have the ability to determine how our federal tax dollars are directed, through electing our representative to Congress and having a person who stands for us in the House.

The 2010 census will help communities across America receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year for



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Patricia Hibbler of the Phoenix Indian Center talks at a Valley stop of the U.S. Census Bureau's Traveling Road Tour in January.

public-works projects and disaster-response services.

At Scottsdale Healthcare, as a locally based not-for-profit hospital system, the census is important to us as it helps us

receive federal dollars through Medicaid and other programs as we expand our charitable services to the community.

The amount we receive is based on data collected

through the census. These numbers allow us to set specific goals for what we are able to provide to our patients who may need a little help in paying for our services.

Census-based funding helps us provide treatment and promote health and healing in response to identified needs in the community. It also helps us help special populations, including low-income and/or underserved people such as vulnerable children or the elderly.

Scottsdale Healthcare is committed to its strong partnerships benefiting the health of our community, and we urge you to stand up and be counted in the next few weeks as the census takes place.

Wendy Lyons is vice president of community stewardship for Scottsdale Healthcare.