

# LOOKING FOR SHORT TERM WORK? --2020 CENSUS MAY WANT YOU

By Mark Hedin Ethnic Media Services

The Census Bureau has said it expects to hire about a half-million people nationwide to help in its all-important counting of everybody living in the United States, something the government has done every 10 years since 1790.

That half-million hiring target is a sizable decrease from the last census, in 2010, when the bureau was more dependent on shoe leather than silicon to get the work done. Instead of the 635,000 people hired in 2010 to knock on doors to fill out questionnaires with people who hadn't gotten theirs to the mailbox, in 2020, for the first time, the government is counting on people filling out their forms online.

The half-million Census Bureau jobs are open to any U.S. citizen who can pass a background check, is at least 18 and possesses a Social Security number. In California, census officials project they will fill or already have filled about 12,800 positions.

"It's a relatively fluid number, just a projection," said Celeste Jimenez, assistant regional census manager based in Los Angeles. That's because for "enumerators," the biggest category of census workers, the number of people hired will depend on how many people didn't complete their census questionnaires promptly next year, leading the Census Bureau to hire people who know their communities and languages and can go out into the field and come back with completed questionnaires from the non-responders.

This year, the Census Bureau is focused on setting up and staffing offices across the country and checking and updating the list of addresses used to send people reminders and instructions on filling out the 2020 Census questionnaire online when it is released in mid-March.

In California, where there will be 30 census offices up and down the state, the administrative jobs mostly already filled or due to

fill soon (<https://census.gov/about-regions/los-angeles/jobs/california.html>) are expected to last all the way through till the census gathering is completed next summer, at a pay scale ranging from \$18 to \$51 per hour, depending on the assignment and the location.

The next wave of hiring, for "listers" who will do the address verification work this year, is under way. Those jobs pay from \$16.50 to \$33 per hour and are expected to last only for a couple of months, including paid training.

To apply for these positions, go to <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html>. Yolanda Lazcano, recruiting coordinator for the "Los Angeles Region" which covers the entire West Coast from California to Alaska, plus Hawaii, Idaho and Nevada is hoping to recruit 11,000 applicants for approximately 3,500 lister positions in California.

Next year, after mailings are sent out with instructions on the legally required process of filling out the census questionnaires, the biggest wave of hiring will begin: for "field staff" or "enumerators" to do the "non-response follow-up" work that in large part consists of knocking on doors at addresses where residents didn't file completed questionnaires.

These positions also will be filled through the Census Bureau website: <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html>.

The Census Bureau hopes that having people file their questionnaires online will yield billions of dollars in savings on the shoe leather it's always needed to get those questionnaires completed. It expects at least half of the country's more than 300 million people to take the online option.

Nonetheless, Lazcano expects that each of California's 30 census offices will need about 300 enumerators.

In the past, with questionnaires submitted through snail mail, the cost per person of gathering census data had grown to \$92 in 2010, from just \$16 in 1970, as measured in constant

dollars.

The ability to bridge language barriers will be invaluable, and in fact is a requirement for some of the managerial positions the Census Bureau still has open in California, such as this one for a Spanish speaker in Bakersfield (<https://census.gov/about/census-careers/opportunities/positions/region-field/cfm/LARO-CFM-CA22.html>) or this one for a Chinese-language speaker in the Contra Costa County city of Concord: (<https://census.gov/about/census-careers/opportunities/positions/region-field/cfm/LARO-CFM-CA47.html>). (The application period for those two positions closes June 14.)

The Census Bureau is touting its jobs as ideal for people just starting their working life who need to establish a record of reliability, for people who can use the frequently evening or weekend hours to supplement jobs they already have, or for retirees who would like to re-enter the workforce in a limited way.

As for the background checks, Lazcano said that hiring will be on a case by case basis, so having a felony conviction, for instance, isn't necessarily a disqualifier.

Lazcano said bilingual census staff will be needed wherever 5% or more of a community is believed to primarily use another language.

Payday comes every week and people using their cars will be reimbursed. Although the jobs are in most cases temporary, the work occasionally can lead to a career.

The state of California also is devoting millions of dollars to help ensure that the 2020 Census includes everyone in the state. As of early June, there are just a few state of California jobs related to the census, listed here (<https://census.ca.gov/job-opportunities/>). But the state will not be hiring enumerators or listers. That's the federal Census Bureau's responsibility.

## 川普移民改革“H-4工卡”勢將取消 移民家庭糟殃

H-4 持有者可能無法取得工卡合法在美工作,這將影響眾多來自印度及中國大陸的配偶,加重家庭經濟負擔。(取自移民局網站)

自 2015 年 5 月起,允許 H-1B 工作簽證的配偶 H-4,申請 EAD(employment authorization card)工卡合法工作,然而川普總統發動移民改革,H-4 持有者可能很快無法取得工卡合法在美工作。即便現在移民局還未公佈相關規定,但多位移民律師認為,該法很可能會通過,並將影響眾多來自印度及中國大陸的配偶,加重他們的經濟負擔。

目前取消 H-4 工卡的法規,早在今年 2 月呈送白宮預算管理局審查,至今還未知何時生效。根據聯邦公民及移民服務局(USCIS)的數據顯示,2015 年至 2018 年期間,已有 9 萬 946 位 H-1B 配偶初步取得 EAD 工卡批准的資格。2018 年就有 6800 位配偶獲批,其中包括 6270 位女性及 530 位男性,大部分申請人來自印度、中國及菲律賓。

由於川普堅持“買美國貨,雇美國人”(Buy American and Hire American),認為 H-1B 工作簽證持有者及其配偶,不該搶走美國公民的工作機會,上任以來一直提倡移民改革,希望阻斷濫用移民政策的外國人進入美國。

事實上 H-1B 配偶只有在兩種情況下可申請到 EAD 工卡。移民律師姜國棟表示,只要是 H-1B 持有者的 I-140 表格被批准,或 H-1B 持有者在等候綠卡期間,H-4 持有者都可以申請 EAD 卡在美合法工作。律師蔡玟慧補充說,配偶在美的合法身分是依附著 H-1B 持有者,若 H-1B 持有者申請綠卡,H-1B 及其配偶會在同一天拿到綠卡,夫妻的身分等同是一個人。

針對這項法規實施的可能性,姜國棟認為,因為修改規章不需經過國會通過,川普總統若堅持,該法通過的機率相當大。一旦相關法規通過,最主要的影響在於該法生效時間。若“立即生效”,不管 H-4 持有者現在是否有 EAD 卡,等於是在一瞬間丟了工作。由於 EAD 卡是一年重新辦理一次,法規也可能規定 H-4 持有者在某個時間點開始,不得再使用或申辦 EAD 工卡。法規生效時間非常關鍵。

蔡玟慧表示,若法規通過對於 H-1B 持有者的家庭有重大影響及不便利,尤其是現在靠著 EAD 卡在工作 H-4 持有者,原本有兩份薪水養家的家庭,將少了一份收入來源。假設家庭還包括孩子,這將加重經濟負擔,直到 H-1B 持有者在美申請到綠卡,H-4 配偶才有可能取得合法工作機會。不過現在綠卡排期是越來越長,重返工作的時間也相對長了。

移民律師王振邦也認為,這個法規很可能會發生。即便法規生效使 H-4 持有者不能在美合法工作,但本人與孩子的上學資格不受影響。假設 H-4 持有者堅持想賺錢為家庭分擔,也可詢問雇主是否幫忙申辦 H-1B 工作簽證,經過抽籤、審查程序,取得在美合法工作身分。

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**精辦:** 國家利益豁免、傑出人才、教授研究員、L1 跨國經理、勞工證等職業移民; 投資移民; J-1、I-601 豁免; 親屬、結婚、超齡子女等家庭移民; H1B 工作簽證; 入籍; 保釋、政治庇護、出庭、上訴、開案、十年豁免綠卡等。

**精通:** 國語、粵語、韓語、塔加拉語、英語

### 成功案例

1. 維珍尼亞州趙先生宗教庇護, 2010 年 2 月申請, 2010 年 4 月獲准
2. 俄州克城邱先生有遞解令, 與公民結婚申請綠卡, 2010 年 12 月申請, 2011 年 4 月獲准
3. 紐約葉小姐 J-2 豁免申請, 2011 年 8 月申請, 2011 年 9 月獲准
4. 丹佛市徐先生, H1B 工作簽證(律師), 2010 年 12 月申請, 2011 年 1 月獲准
5. 維珍尼亞州任先生宗教庇護,

- 2010 年 11 月申請, 2011 年 2 月獲准
6. 新澤西州余先非法入境, 獄中出庭, 計劃生育申請庇護, 2011 年 7 月申請, 2011 年 10 月獲准
7. 俄州哥倫布陳先生子女為父母申請綠卡, 2011 年 7 月申請, 2011 年 10 月獲准
8. 明尼蘇達州韓先生 H1B 工作簽證(工程師), 2011 年 3 月申請, 2011 年 5 月獲准
9. 俄州克城鄭先生公民子女申請父母, 2010 年 11 月申請 I-130, 2011 年 4 月獲准, 10 月移民簽證獲准

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