



# FRAUD ALERT



May 18, 2020

## Make sure your Donations are going to the Right Place during the Pandemic

During this Covid-19 Pandemic we have seen the best and worst in people across the world. Charities are being formed to help the vulnerable populations, the front line workers, older adults and many others.

People are donating even though many are not working right now due to the virus. Unfortunately, we have fraudsters who are creating sham charities and fake appeals to steal donations from those good people.

The Federal Trade Commissions (FTC) has put together some tips to help prevent scammers from taking your hard earned money that you are donating to the the charity of your choice.

Here are just a few tips from the FTC to help you when you are donating to charity:

- Perform a search with the Charity's name and "fraud" or "scam".
- Donate by using a credit card online or over the phone.
- Confirm that your donation is tax deductible.

You can read the rest of the article from the FTC [here](#). They provide other tips for when you are donating during this pandemic or when donating in general.

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## Reaching Spanish Speaking Communities for the 2020 Census

Several people have completed the 2020 Census, but if you look at the response rates for your county, city/town/village or Census tract, you'll notice that not everyone in Illinois has been counted. The response rate shows the percentage of households that the Census has identified that have not yet responded.

In particular, Spanish speaking communities are tending to have very low response rates in the 2020 Census. Historically undercounted communities, such as Spanish speaking communities, need to hear from trusted voices and people they know that the Census is safe, secure and important. They also need to know how to spot Census imposters. So if you serve Spanish speaking consumers, encourage them to complete the Census. If you know trusted community leaders (e.g., faith leaders, elected officials, organizers) ask them to promote the Census.

AgeOptions is offering Census sessions in Spanish that people can call into or join via Zoom on May 20 at 10 am & May 27 at 1 pm. These sessions are meant to address concerns about the Census, encourage people to complete the Census and are offered

only in Spanish. Please share this [flyer](#) with your networks.

While these sessions are in Spanish only, if you are interested in hosting an English Census presentation, email Lucia Shah at [Lucia.Shah@ageoptions.org](mailto:Lucia.Shah@ageoptions.org).

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Have a safe and healthy week!

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Please share this Fraud Alert with colleagues, consumers, or other professionals in your area. If you would like to sign up to receive the Fraud Alert directly, visit [click here](#).

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The Illinois SMP at AgeOptions partners with agencies across the state to empower and assist Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse through outreach, counseling, and education.

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