Where Does the Money Go?

The population data from the census is also used to decide how much money each state receives from the federal government for a range of programs. After the census in 2010, New York State received $73 billion ($73,000,000,000) for a long list of programs and projects, including the following:

- Medicaid and Medicare
- College grants and loans
- Food stamps
- Highways and roads
- Section 8 housing vouchers
- Temporary aid for needy families
- Children’s health insurance
- School breakfast and lunch programs
- Special education
- Housing loans
- Home energy assistance
- Unemployment insurance
- Child care
- Adoption and foster care
- Adult education funding
- … and much more!

1) Which of the programs above do you think are important? Why?

If a state’s population is undercounted, the federal money it receives for the programs above will be lower than it should be. This means that there will be less money in the budget for these programs and people will receive reduced services and benefits.