WHY SHOULD IT MATTER TO ME?

Many residents think census data is only used to determine the number of legislative seats Illinois has in Washington or Springfield. This is only a part of what is determined by census results.

Census participation and results also determine the amount of federal money Illinois receives each year to support:

- Infrastructure needs, such as road construction and repair;
- Schools and school districts in your community;
- Hospitals and emergency healthcare centers for the insured and uninsured;
- Social services programs that provide assistance for senior citizens, veterans and low-income families; and
- Large companies' and local business enterprises' decisions to potentially build or expand their corporate offices or factories, bringing employment opportunities to communities.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

The George Washington Institute for Public Policy's report "Counting for Dollars 2020" estimates that the undercount of Illinoisans in the 2010 Census resulted in a loss of $952 per person of federal funding. **In 2015 alone, Illinois lost $122 million for every 1 percent of the population not counted in the 2010 Census.**

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois.
November 2018 —1 — EX 76.1

Census 2020

MAKE SURE ILLINOIS COUNTS.

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

ILLINOIS
COMPLETE COUNT
COMMISSION

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL ILLINOIS RESIDENTS:

Every 10 years, a census is taken of all persons living in the United States. **It is important that every Illinois resident be counted so our state population accurately reflects our needs.** While many Illinoisans will answer the census questionnaire when it arrives, some demographics are consistently undercounted due to low participation. The following groups are historically undercounted in the census:

- Veterans, military and personnel living on Illinois military bases;
- Minority communities;
- Retirees spending their spring and summer in Illinois and wintering in a warmer climate;
- Illinois university/college students with a permanent residence outside Illinois;
- Persons living in large housing units or apartment complexes;
- Foreign born residents (documented and undocumented) living and/or working in Illinois;
- Farmers and their families residing in rural Illinois counties;
- Children under age 5; and
- Homeless population.

Every resident of Illinois is depending on you to **make sure Illinois counts** by participating in this important opportunity.

Jesse White
Illinois Secretary of State
Chair, Illinois Complete Count Commission

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

PRIOR TO CENSUS DAY YOU CAN:

EDUCATE your community about the 2020 Census and the importance of participation with census takers when they visit local neighborhoods.

ENCOURAGE trusted community partners, such as churches and neighborhood organizations, to motivate their members to respond to the census questionnaire.

ENGAGE grass roots organizations in your community to reach out to residents in hard-to-count groups and those who are not motivated to respond to the census questionnaire.

CENSUS DAY IS APRIL 1, 2020.

The **most important** thing you can do is **respond** to the census questionnaire when you receive it. There will be multiple ways to respond:

- **Online –** For the first time, this census questionnaire can be completed online using your personal computer. If you do not have a computer or access to the internet, please visit your local library and ask to use a public computer.
- **Phone –** The U.S. Census Bureau will have a phone system set up so you can call and complete the census questionnaire at your convenience.
- **Mail –** If you do not choose to complete the questionnaire online or utilize the phone system, you can still submit your questionnaire via U.S. mail.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Your census questionnaire answers are kept confidential by the U.S. Census Bureau. The information is not shared with other federal or state government agencies.