

# BE COUNTED...BECAUSE YOU COUNT!

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### About the 2020 Census – The Basics



#### What is the Census?

The U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years. The census covers the entire country and everyone living here – all adults, all children, all immigrants. The first census was in 1790.

#### Why is it important to me?

The results are used to determine how many seats each state gets in Congress. We now have two fewer representatives and two fewer electoral votes than we had in 1990.

Census data also determines how federal funding will be spent, supporting vital programs throughout NJ such as Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP (food stamps), TANF, CHIP, WIC, Head Start, School Breakfast Programs and Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. Based upon the last Census, New Jersey received \$22,726,090,249 to support 55 Federal Spending Programs.

Businesses also use census data to plan for the future by deciding where to build factories, offices and stores, which create jobs.

#### When can I fill it out?

Beginning in mid-March, an invitation will be mailed to every household. Once you receive it, you can respond online, by mail or telephone. There will be online/phone support in 12 major languages. When completing the census, you should count everyone who is living in your household on April 1, 2020.

In May, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that haven't responded to

the census. Census workers will always wear a photo ID with an expiration date and a special U.S. Dept. of Commerce watermark. If you are ever unsure, contact the Census Bureau at 1-800-991-2520.

#### What will be asked?

It takes about 5-10 minutes. The questions are simple. You will be asked for basic information about the people living in your household (adults, young children and infants).

- How many people are living or staying at your home on April 1, 2020.
- Whether the home is owned or rented.
- About the sex of each person in your home.
- About the age of each person in your home.
- About the race of each person in your home.
- About the relationship of each person in your home.

You will never be asked for:

- Social Security numbers.
- Bank or credit card account numbers.
- Money or donations.
- Anything on behalf of a political party.

#### Who will see the information me and my family provide?

The census is safe, confidential and protected by federal law. Survey responses can only be used to produce statistics. By law your information cannot be shared with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or to determine your eligibility for government benefits.

**It's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"**