

## **THE 2020 CENSUS IS ALMOST HERE!**

### **What Is The Census And Why Is It Important?**

Once a decade, America comes together to count every resident in the United States. The decennial census was first taken in 1790, as mandated by the Constitution. It counts our population and households, providing the basis for reapportioning congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to support states, counties and communities' vital programs — impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy.

The next census is coming in 2020. Counting an increasingly diverse and growing population is a massive undertaking. It requires years of planning and the support of thousands of people. Ultimately, the success of the census depends on everyone's participation. The Census Bureau depends on cross-sector collaborations with organizations and individuals to get people to participate.

*The 2020 Census is important for you and your community, and you can help by completing the survey.*

### **How The Census Benefits Our Community:**

Federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race and other factors. Our community benefits the most when the census counts everyone. It is important that older adults answer the survey so because the Office for the Aging funding is dependent on an accurate population count.

### **What to Expect in the Mail:**

Most households will receive an invitation in the mail. Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail or by phone. You will most likely receive an invitation encouraging you to respond online.

Between March 12<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup> you will receive the first invitation in the mail to respond online to the 2020 Census (although some households may receive a paper survey).

If you haven't responded you will receive several reminders in the mail up until the end of April. If you still haven't responded by then you will be sent a paper copy in the mail. The Census Bureau will follow up in person with households that haven't responded to any of the invitations to participate.

### **Your Census Responses Are Safe, Secure and Confidential:**

The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information collected. Personal information collected by the Census Bureau cannot be shared with any government agency or court. Cybersecurity programs meet the highest and most recent standards and data is encrypted to protect privacy.

Census takers will never ask for your social security or Medicare number, for money or donations, your bank account or credit card numbers

**The Office for the Aging is happy to assist anyone with his or her online survey if you do not have a computer.**