



Illinois Aging Network Alert May 24, 2019

A report of the impact Area Agencies on Aging have on Illinois seniors.

Your Support is Vital in Assuring Accuracy in the 2020 Illinois Census!

An *accurate* count in Illinois is vital in assuring Illinois receives its fair share in Federal dollars and representation in Washington D.C. An *accurate* count of our seniors is vital to assure our senior population will receive the funds to serve our rising senior population.

If the Illinois census is undercounted in 2020 – we can anticipate the following:

- Illinois could lose two congressional seats.
- Illinois could lose seats in the Electoral College, thus decreasing our influence in future Presidential elections.
- Illinois could lose a significant portion of our state's annual allotment of \$19.7 billion in federal dollars if immigrant, rural communities, low income communities and ethnic populations are not counted in 2020.
- In total, Illinois could lose \$1.2 billion in funding over the next decade if our state's census is undercounted, which could come out to \$18,000 per each person.

Other Issues Impacting Undercounting:

- *Lack of trust* in our government, especially if a citizenship question is added to the form. An estimate of noncitizens living in Illinois is nearly 1 million people, which accounts for 7% of our population. Our federal constitution mandates that all persons be counted.
- *Internet based* - Many residents do not have access to internet, especially low income and rural households. This is especially a problem with our seniors, since many seniors are not computer savvy and do not have access to the internet.
- *History tells us* that young children, minorities, immigrants, low income, rural, people with disabilities, homeless, LGBTQ community has been undercounted.

What can be done to ensure a complete and accurate counting?

Illinois must invest in the census. The *Illinois Complete Count* Commission is asking for \$25 million in state funds for outreach, especially to “hard to count groups” like rural and minority residents and to educate people on using the internet to be counted and so all residents realize the importance to be counted.

Governor Pritzker has budgeted \$200,000 for the Illinois Department on Aging to assist older adults participate in the 2020 Census process. All Census 2020 funds must be approved and allocated accordingly.

We must spend money to make money - We must invest in our census and invest for our future. Your support is vital to assure an accurate census count in 2020!

For more information, contact Susan C. Real, Legislative Chair (309-829-2065 ext. 218) or Joy Paeth, I4A President (618-222-2561).