



Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Regional Complete Count Committee Kicks Off Census 2020 Community Count Initiative

ROCKFORD, IL – Community members and leaders gathered today to officially kick off the area’s five-county collaborative initiative to ensure a complete and accurate 2020 Census count for the region.

“Data collected from the Census will be used to determine representation and funding levels for so many local programs,” said Wester Wuori, City of Rockford Chief of Staff and Chair of the Regional Complete Count Committee. “Every person not counted in our community represents a potential loss of \$1,535 per year for a total of \$15,350 in federal funding over 10 years. Getting an accurate count is vital for maintaining service levels for our communities.”

More than \$675 billion in federal funds is allocated annually to local communities to fund programs for: schools, hospitals, fire and police departments, roads and bridges, people with disabilities, the elderly, rural residents, and other community service providers. In addition to receiving information about the importance of the Census locally, attendees were also invited to sign a “Be Counted, Be Heard” pledge poster.

About the #815Counts Regional Complete Count Committee (RCCC)

The #815Counts Regional Complete Count Committee was formed in June 2019 to coordinate communication and outreach efforts locally in Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, and DeKalb counties.

Region 1 Planning Council Awards 12 Census 2020 Grants: Partners with RCCC

As a regional planning commission, Region 1 Planning Council coordinates multi-jurisdictional and long-term projects and planning. In October 2019, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) named RPC as the Northern Region Regional Intermediary for the Illinois Census Office’s 2020 Census Grant Program. As a result, the Council received **\$920,000** in funding to reinvest in Northern Illinois to encourage a complete and accurate 2020 Census count. RPC accepted applications and **12** sub grants were awarded to assist in reaching historically-undercounted populations located throughout our five-county region. These 12 grant sub-recipients are working closely with the RCCC on outreach and education efforts.

(more)

The following cities, counties, and organizations received IDHS grant dollars to conduct targeted hard-to-count outreach in the Northern Region and are active members of the RCCC.

- Blackhawk Hills Regional Council
- City of Belvidere
- City of DeKalb
- City of Freeport
- City of Oregon
- City of Rochelle
- City of Rockford
- DeKalb County
- Greater Freeport Partnership
- Northern Illinois University
- Winnebago County
- Winnebago County Health Department

“We are excited to be hosting and working with the RCCC in implementing marketing and outreach initiatives to help reach traditionally under-counted areas within our five counties,” said Ivy Hood, 2020 Census Grant Program Manager. “This news conference officially kicks off our efforts to educate and inform residents on why completing the Census is important locally, and that the information they submit on the nine-question survey is confidential and safe. Every single person in our community counts.”

Beginning March 12, 2020, the U.S. Census will begin mailing instructions on how to complete the Census to every household. The online version of the survey will be accessible from the below website beginning Thursday, March 26, 2020. Final counts will take place by August 2020 with the Census Bureau completing delivery of redistricting counts to the states in April 2021.

For more information on the Census visit, www.2020Census.gov.

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