The 2020 Census is a count of every resident in the United States, regardless of citizenship, by the nonpartisan U.S. Census Bureau. The Census is important, not only for valuable demographic data, but for apportionment and the allocation of federal funds. Participation is critical in order to obtain an accurate count. The Census Bureau estimated that 16.7% of people in Iowa did not self-respond to the 2010 Census.

Why Does it Matter?

Congressional Apportionment

Data collected in the decennial Census is used for Apportionment, or the process of determining the number of seats each state has in the U.S House of Representatives. The 435 seats are divided among the 50 states according to population, with each state having a minimum of one representative. Iowa lost a congressional seat in 2010 due to reapportionment but is projected to retain four seats.

Federal Funding

Each year, over one trillion dollars in federal funding is allocated to hospitals, fire departments, schools, infrastructure, and other resources through 316 federal spending programs. Medicaid/Medicare, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), highway planning and construction, college assistance, and Title I grants for local public schools are among the largest programs.

Key Dates

MARCH 12 - 20

Households begin receiving information on how to complete the Census by phone, by mail, or online.

MARCH 30 - APRIL 1

The Census Bureau makes a focused effort to count those who are experiencing homelessness.

APRIL 1

Census Day. By this date, every household will have received information on the 2020 Census.

APRIL - JULY

Census takers visit group living quarters as well as households that have not completed the Census.

DECEMBER

Apportionment counts are delivered to the President and Congress, as required by law.

EARLY 2021

Data will be released to states, including small-area data required for legislative redistricting.

For more information: City of Dubuque 2020 Census Complete Count Committee at *cityofdubuque.org/2020Census*