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### **Key Points: Why should I complete my Census form?**

- The Census happens only once every 10 years and it's important that every Hoosier household complete the Census form on April 1, 2010.
  - Everyone counts. Federal funding for programs benefiting Hoosiers and their communities is based on Census results.
  - All Census responses are private and are not shared with anyone – including other government agencies.
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### **How does the Census benefit me and my neighbors?**

- Census data is used to apportion congressional seats.
- Census data is used to draw districts for the Indiana General Assembly.
- Census data drives funding for and delivery of many federal programs, up to \$1,200 per person.
  - Medicaid, WIC food grants, social services
  - Schools
  - Transportation funding
  - Programs for seniors
  - Emergency supplies

### **What is the Census process?**

- The U.S. Constitution requires a count of all people living in the United States every 10 years. The United States Census Bureau is charged with counting the population.
- The Census count does not differentiate between citizens and non-citizens; ALL people living in the U.S. are counted.
- The Census Bureau uses address lists (updated this year) to send a Census form to each residence in the country.
- Residences include homes, apartments, residential facilities, dorms, shelters, and non-traditional housing structures.

April 1, 2010 is Census Day.

- Forms will arrive in the U.S. mail in mid- to late-March 2010.
- Census forms are available in multiple languages.
- Census responses should reflect all people living in a residence as of April 1, 2010.
- Responses should also reflect those people who live in the residence most of the year.

### **Are Census responses confidential?**

- Data you provide to the U.S. Census Bureau through the 2010 Census Form is private.
- Data is not shared with federal, state, or local government agencies.
- Data is not shared with law enforcement.
- Names and addresses collected as a part of the Census are used to verify that each resident is counted only once. *Names and addresses are not provided to law enforcement.*

### **How does the Census impact Indiana's rural and agricultural communities?**

- The 10-year Census count will show us how (and how much) the rural and agricultural areas of our state are changing, where people are coming from or where they moved to, and more.
- The size of an area's population determines how much federal and state money is received in our communities.
- County extension offices, co-ops, federal agricultural assistance programs, and others use Census information when applying for grants, determining levels of disaster relief funding, and how to target their services.

### **How can rural and agricultural organizations help spread the word?**

Begin planning and organizing now so that your staff, members, and clients are ready to help promote the Census in February and March 2010.

#### *Communication with Employees, Organization Members, and Clients*

- Use the speaking points on the front of this flyer to create:
  - An article about the Census for publication in employee and member newsletters and on your organization's Web site.
  - Posters or flyers highlighting the Census to hang on employee and public bulletin boards.
- Put the 2010 Census logo on your primary Web sites.
- Make the Census information on the front of this flyer available at your events.
- Add a link from your Web site to Indiana's census site: [www.census.indiana.edu](http://www.census.indiana.edu).
- Mention the importance of the Census in your e-mail communication.

#### *Outreach to the Community*

- Participate on your local community's Complete Count Committee.
- Request that your organization be listed as a Census partner on the [www.census.indiana.edu](http://www.census.indiana.edu) Web site.
- Present information about the importance of the Census at local events (including Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, Farmer's Market or Co-op meetings, etc.).
- Serve as a spokesperson for the Census in your community.
- Sponsor Census-related events in your community.
- In March 2010: Use exterior signage where available to encourage everyone to complete the Census form.
- On April 1, 2010: Use exterior signage where available to announce National Census Day.