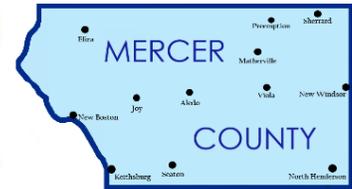




Mercer County Better Together

Connect. Promote. Educate.



Census 2020: MCBT Launching Outreach, Assistance Project

Mercer County, IL – February 10th, 2020 – Census data directly impacts quality of life in Mercer County. It drives funding for dozens of projects and programs ranging from infrastructure to early childhood education. Federally, \$675 billion is available for these programs; the counties in which all residents are counted will receive appropriate funding for these projects and programs. Each uncounted resident equates to approximately \$2,000 lost in the local area.

From now through the end of June, Mercer County Better Together (MCBT) is partnering with the Mercer County Health Department to educate residents on the importance of a complete local count and to provide assistance in Census completion. A Complete Count Committee (CCC) is being developed to help people all across Mercer County be counted accurately during Census 2020.

"No matter who we are, where we work or how long we've lived in Mercer County, we all drive local roads, shop local businesses or take our children to local parks," said MCBT Executive Director Kyle McEwen. "Census 2020 determines federal funding and the public narrative on Mercer County for the next decade. A complete count is key; it will be a team effort countywide to make it happen. We look forward to helping people understand how simple the Census is to complete and that their feedback will make an impact."

The US Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information collected and keep it strictly confidential. The Census Bureau can only use your answers to produce statistics. All Census Bureau staff take a lifetime oath to protect your personal information, with violation penalties including a fine of up to \$250,000 and up to five years in prison. No court of law can subpoena Census responses.

Census 2020 is the easiest in history to complete! It includes only eight questions and can be completed online, by phone or by mail. MCBT will be on the go this spring and summer to answer questions and help folks complete their Census. Be on the lookout for a "Census Party" in your community!

To learn more about how MCBT and the Mercer County Health Department are working to ensure a complete count, email kyle@mcbettertogether.org or call (309) 582-3759. For more on Census 2020, visit <https://2020census.gov/en>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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