

# CENSUS 101

**Responding is important.** A complete count helps ensure that services like Medicare, Medicaid, social security, and public transportation can support those who need them. Each year, the federal government distributes more than *\$675 billion* to communities based on Census data.

**Responding is safe.** All of the information you share is protected by law and cannot be used against you.

**Responding is accessible.** We are doing everything we can to ensure the ways to respond are accessible for everyone.

The census provides vital information for you and your community:

- Responses are used to redraw legislative districts and determine the **number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives**.
- Communities rely on census statistics **to plan for** resident needs including **new roads, schools, and emergency services**.
- **It counts every person living in the United States** regardless of their country of origin or immigration status; this includes children, newborn babies, grandparents, friends, non-relatives, and everyone who is living or staying in a household as of April 1, 2020.
- It helps determine which areas qualify for the **critical resources** families depend on **for the next 10 years!** Examples include food assistance, Head Start, childcare, housing support, public schools, early intervention services for children with special needs, children's health insurance, and more.

For **each** person not counted, their community loses out on more than \$20,000 over 10 years!

Respond online, by phone, or by mail starting March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

According to the US Census Bureau, over 20% of Hackettstown, Mansfield Township, Washington Borough, & Phillipsburg residents did NOT respond to the 2010 census!