

# 2020 CENSUS: COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

## A FEW MINUTES TO DEFINE WHO WE ARE AS A NATION

In 2020, the U.S. Census will define who we are as a nation. This simple form, that can be filled out in 10 minutes, affects billions in federal funding, provides critical data, and determines political representation. College students and faculty use census information for multiple purposes. Census data affects funding for college tuition, grant, and loan programs. Census data is critical for student and faculty reports, research, and statistical profiles. It helps understand where the next generation of workers is coming from, which will influence college degrees and programs, and guide students in their career choices. Achieving a complete and accurate 2020 Census shapes the future of students, campuses, educators, and communities. **You can make a difference.**

## THE CENSUS: A SNAPSHOT FOR MONTANA

- The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. The Census is a count of everyone residing in the United States: in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and the U.S territories
- It is estimated that for every Montana resident we count, the state will receive \$20,000 back in federal funds over the next decade. Montana is spending just \$0.09 per resident on promotion, so it is critical that our partners spread the word for the state to receive its fair share.
- Every year, more than \$675 billion in federal funds are awarded to states and communities annually based on census data. Montana receives more than \$2 billion every year in federal funding that is allocated to our state based on census data.
- The 2020 Census will create hundreds of thousands of temporary jobs across the nation. Thousands of Montanans workers will be hired to conduct the Census.
- Census data affect your voice in Congress by determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. Projections show Montana could gain a U.S. House Representative in Congress with an accurate count.

## EXAMPLES OF ANNUAL FEDERAL FUNDING FOR MONTANA HIGHER EDUCATION BASED ON CENSUS DATA

| Programs for Campuses & Students | Agency | MT FY16 Allocation |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Federal Direct Student Loans     | ED     | \$213,883,457      |
| Pell Grants                      | ED     | \$10,640,020       |
| HOME programs                    | HUD    | \$7,320,575        |
| Career & Technical Education     | ED     | \$5,165,733        |
| Cooperative Extension Services   | USDA   | \$5,173,200        |
| WOA Dislocated Worker Grants     | DLI    | \$1,681,408        |

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: KEY POINTS FOR COLLEGES

- **How are college/university students living on campus counted by the Census Bureau?** If you live in a dormitory, residence hall, sorority or fraternity house, you will be counted through the Group Quarters program. A representative from your facility will work with the Census to decide how to count residents.
- **How are students living in off-campus housing counted by the Census Bureau?** A 2020 Census notice will be delivered or mailed to your house or apartment in March 2020. All students living at the address are considered one household, so only one form should be completed that includes information about all the people living at that address.
- **How are students who live with parents or guardians counted by the Census Bureau?** If you commute to school and reside full-time at your parents' or guardians' household, you should be counted on your parents' or guardians' household form.
- **If I am a resident of another state going to college in Montana, where should I be counted?** You should fill out the Census as a resident of Montana since you are spending the majority of the year in the state. The Census count is used to allocate funding for services to the communities where the population resides.
- **What if I am an international student or not a U.S. citizen. Do I participate in the 2020 Census?** Yes. Everyone in the United States must be counted. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and noncitizens.
- **I will be studying abroad during the 2020 spring semester. How do I participate in the 2020 Census?** The 2020 Census is a count of everyone in the United States on April 1, 2020. If you are studying or living abroad at this time, you will not be counted in the 2020 Census.
- **How can I get involved with the 2020 Census?** There are numerous ways to get involved. Participate in on-campus activities, spread the word about the 2020 Census or pursue a temporary census job.
- **Are there temporary 2020 Census job opportunities?** The Census Bureau is hiring more than a million employees nationwide to help execute the 2020 Census. Thousands of temporary jobs, which are perfect for college students and educators, are available in Montana. Census jobs pay competitive wages based on current pay rates in your area. For information about census jobs, visit [2020censusjobs.gov](http://2020censusjobs.gov).

## COMPLETING THE 2020 CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE: SIMPLE AND SAFE

- The 2020 Census questionnaire will ask only a few simple questions of each person. This simple, short questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete.
- There are three ways to respond to the 2020 Census: online, by phone, and by mail.
- The Census Bureau does not release or share information that identifies individual respondents or their household entities with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement. Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.