



DCF COVID-19 Daily Update Supporting Children, Families and Staff April 14, 2020

The Census Matters!

Once a decade, each home in the United States and five territories receives an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire. The U.S. Census is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The law requires that residents respond to it.

But why should they?

Why should a social services agency like the Department of Children and Families encourage families to complete the census? Here is what is at stake.....

The answer is that more than \$675 BILLION in federal funding annually is dispersed based on the counts contained in the U.S. Census. Much of that money supports programs that help our children and families, including schools, hospitals, transportation, public works and others. Social service funding for Medicaid, Head Start, mental health services block grants, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) hangs in the balance.

Community organizations use census information to develop social service programs, community action projects, senior lunch programs and child care centers.

The U.S. Congress uses the census totals to determine how many seats a state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, states use the numbers to allocate seats in their law-making bodies.

Future disaster funding could be impacted by the census data today.... Get Counted! This is a critical time in our state and we must act upon it!

Your families have already received the invitation to participate in the mail in March. Talk to them about why it is important for their family and community for them to fill it out.

And for more information, please visit this website that Governor Lamont and Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz unveiled earlier this year: <https://portal.ct.gov/census2020/>

