



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Economics and Statistics Administration**  
**U.S. Census Bureau**

Washington, DC 20233-0001  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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FROM THE DIRECTOR  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

To: Facility Manager

The United States Constitution provides that a census of the United States be taken every ten years. In the year 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau will conduct a Census across the Nation to enumerate the U.S. population. In addition to counting residents living in homes, the Census Bureau will also count people living in group quarters like correctional facilities and residential treatment centers. The decennial census provides the information each community relies on to obtain federal and state funding for health assistance, services for older adults, employment services, schools, and more.

The 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal will be our final opportunity to examine procedures we will use in the 2010 Census to collect group quarters information. We will enumerate people who live or stay in group quarters, such as group homes, and workers' group living quarters. We also will enumerate those who stay at facilities that provide living accommodations and other services to people experiencing homelessness. Our mission is to count everyone.

When enumerating people living in group quarters and clients who use services, such as services provided by a shelter or a soup kitchen, we collect each person's name, gender, age, date of birth, race, ethnicity, and usual residence address.

Census data serve as the basis for many decisions that impact your community and your facility. Federal and state funds for group quarters facilities are often allocated based on census data. Federal, state, and local governments, as well as businesses, health organizations, financial institutions, educational institutions, and facilities that provide public services rely heavily on information collected during the group quarters operations. Government programs, such as the Public Works and Economic Development Act, rely on census data. This program uses the number of unemployed and low income people to determine a community's qualification for public assistance.

Given the importance of including every residence, I hope you will help us ensure that residents of your facility are counted. If you have any questions, please call the Local Census Office telephone number provided in your census materials. Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Charles Louis Kincannon  
Director

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