



Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Tammy Moss Chandler, Director

Barbara Howe, Director of Public Health



Press Release

Not for op-ed

Date: March 29, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ashley Toxqui

Phone: 707-463-7905

Email: toxquia@mendocinocounty.org

Mendocino Counts! - Mendocino County Welcomes the 2020 Census

April 1, 2019 marks the kick-off of activities in California for the 2020 Census. Every 10 years the United States counts all its residents. It does not matter whether you are a U.S. citizen or not, everyone counts! The Constitution, (Article 1, Section 2) outlines the establishment of a regular census in the United States, and is of the utmost importance, as the census determines how many representatives each state gets to send to Congress. It also determines how much federal funding each state receives for a wide variety of programs that benefit us all, such as health care, highways, veteran's benefits, cash assistance, schools and education, housing, wildlife restoration and environmental protections, and much more. For every person counted, the federal government gives approximately \$2,000 each year to the State of California, to fund important programs, over the 10-year census cycle.

The census is strictly confidential. By law, information about individuals cannot be shared with other government agencies, and individual records are sealed for 72 years. The 2020 Census questionnaire will be the short version, and there are no questions about income. It only takes about 10 minutes to complete.

There are many ways to be counted. There is the traditional paper form that people with a house address or rural route mailbox will receive. Those who receive their mail at a post office will not receive a paper form, but can go Online to a secure census website and complete the questionnaire. For convenience, there will be a

phone number to call and you can be counted over the phone. At locations around the county, such as libraries, schools, and public buildings, there will be Questionnaire Assistance Centers with census workers to answer questions and help you complete the form either online or on paper. Census questionnaires in paper and online will be available in many languages.

Need a little extra cash? The Census is hiring! The rate of pay for a census taker in Mendocino County is \$16.50 an hour. Census workers will also receive reimbursement for work-related mileage and expenses where applicable. You must be at least 18 years old, have a valid Social Security number and be a U.S. citizen. You can learn more and apply online at <https://2020census.gov/jobs>

It is your civic duty to be counted! It benefits us all. For more information, contact Julie Beardsley at (707) 472-2684.