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### **What senior adults need to know about the census**

The next U.S. Decennial (every 10 years) census kicks off on April 1, 2020. There is so much information to share on the who, what, where, when and why about the census. Here are some specific pieces of information that senior adults should know:

### **Correct allocation of federal funds for local communities**

Johnson County will only get its correct share of \$675 billion in federal funds if everyone is counted, once and in the right place. According to the GW Institute of Public Policy “Counting for Dollars 2020” report, Kansas receives more than \$6 billion each year based on data received from the 2010 Census. Examples of that funding directed to Kansas from which seniors benefit include:

- More than \$1.9 billion for Medicaid.
- Nearly \$6 million for Medicare Suppl. Medical Insurance (Part B).
- More than \$6 million for Special Programs for the Aging for nutrition services.

### **Where to be counted**

While census counting begins in mid-March and continues for several weeks, the question to keep in mind when participating is, “where was I living on April 1, 2020?” The Residence Criteria used by the U.S. Census includes the following:

- Count people at their usual residence, which is the place where they live and sleep most of the time.
- People in certain types of group facilities on Census Day are counted at the group facility.
- People who have two or more residences, who travel somewhere warmer for the winter as an example, should be counted where they live most of the time. If they can’t determine that, they should be counted where they are on April 1, 2020.
- People visiting on April 1, 2020, but who will return to their usual residence, should be counted where they live and sleep most of the time.
- Patients in hospitals for routine stays or at in-patient hospice facilities should be counted at the residence where they live and sleep most of the time, rather than at the facility.
- Patients in psychiatric hospitals/ units for long-term, non-acute care or nursing facilities should be counted at the health care facility if they are there on April 1, 2020.

### **Don’t forget the grandkids!**

According to Count All Kids, more than two million children under age five live with grandparents. They should be counted at the household here they sleep most of the time, even if it is with grandparents and a temporary situation.

**How to participate**

Responding on the census bureau's secure website will be new for 2020. However, as in past years participants can fill out your census form and mail it or respond by phone. Those who do not participate online, by phone or by mail can expect a census worker to knock at the door.

To keep current on the 2020 Census, look for articles in this magazine and visit Johnson County's website for education and outreach, available at [CountMeInJoCo.org](http://CountMeInJoCo.org)