



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FAYETTE COUNTY INCREASING EFFORTS FOR 2020 CENSUS**

**Uniontown, PA** – With 2020 fast approaching, Fayette County officials are hard at work putting the finishing touches on their upcoming Census campaign.

Earlier this year, county commissioners successfully formed the Fayette County Complete Count Committee, which has been tasked with promoting the Census' importance and ensuring all goals are met when it's conducted April 1, 2020.

As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the nationwide Census, an official recording of the country's population, is conducted via a distributed survey form every 10 years.

The Census allows federal, state and local governments to conduct fair redistricting, provides statistical support for grant applications, helps communities plan for future needs and more.

According to state Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Dennis Davin, every citizen not counted is equivalent to a \$2,100 deduction from the overall funding earmarked for Fayette County.

Chief Community Development Specialist Art Cappella of the Fayette County Office of Planning, Zoning and Community Development said it's "essential that we count every citizen," and the Complete Count Committee is an integral part of achieving that goal.

"Members of the committee have experience in areas such as government, workforce development, the faith-based community, education, media, technology, community organizations, business and veterans," Cappella said. "In fact, there is a need to place folks into subcommittees that will also expand our ability to spread out into the community."

Before 2020 arrives, Cappella hopes another important goal will be accomplished: hiring a full Census staff. To accomplish this, the U.S. Census Bureau will host employment events during National Job Fair Week.

Officials will be conducting interviews from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 21 at Uniontown Public Library. From 2 to 6 p.m. Oct. 24, the bureau will set up shop at Carnegie Free Library in Connellsville.

Fayette County Commissioner Chairman Vince Vicites said, although temporary, Census jobs are extremely important.

"The Census count determines how much government funding Fayette County receives, so Census workers are vital to the process," he said. "We need as much public participation and cooperation as possible to ensure the Census is as accurate as it can be."

The 2020 Census Awareness Phase begins Jan. 1, and government and community leaders will be out in full force, participating in activities highlighting how easy and important participation is.

In March 2020, the Complete Count Committee will switch gears and enter the Motivation Phase, reaching out to citizens through various government, faith, community, business, media and recruitment partners.

“The goal is that every person living in the United States will encounter Census messages during times of work, play, leisure, school and worship,” Cappella said. “Finally, the focus will be on motivating everyone in our communities to take ownership of the Census, make conscious decisions to participate, know where to go for assistance, and be poised and ready to answer questions April 1.”

For more information about the 2020 Census, employment opportunities, or joining a committee, call 724-430-1210, ext. 4308.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.FayetteCountyPA.org](http://www.FayetteCountyPA.org).

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For more information, contact Kristi Rooker Kassimer, Public Relations Specialist, at 412-691-0262, [kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info](mailto:kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info) or Kaylie Moore, Journalist, at 724-317-6924, [kmoore@fayettecountypa.info](mailto:kmoore@fayettecountypa.info).