



Town of Provincetown
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***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****
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**Town of Provincetown Could Lose Millions in Federal Funding
If 2020 Census Numbers Don't Improve**

*2020 Census response rate alarmingly low – only 29 percent
Please note, there is no citizenship question on the 2020 Census*

(Provincetown, MA) — Provincetown is poised to lose millions of dollars in federal and state funds if residents don't complete their 2020 Census questionnaire before the end of this month. This would affect the town and its residents for the next decade. Just weeks before the September 30 deadline for 2020 Census responses, Provincetown's response rate is 29 percent. County- and statewide, the numbers are only somewhat better. Barnstable County's response rate is 49 percent, and the state's is 67 percent. Second-home owners should also respond for their properties in town; additional details below.

"It's critically important that all residents fill out the 2020 Census Questionnaire as soon as possible," said Chris Hottle, director of the Provincetown Council on Aging and Senior Center. "This low response rate could have a tremendous negative impact on grants received by the Council on Aging as well as for other human services providers and programs over the next 10 years, especially on top of anticipated grant funding cuts due to COVID."

Some of the local agencies and organizations that would be affected by this loss in funds include: the Provincetown DPW, which recently received \$3 million for wastewater expansion at the sewer treatment plant based on the 2010 census count; the Provincetown Public Library, which would lose funds for programming and other services; the Provincetown Senior Center, for programs and a part-time programming position; the Provincetown Schools, for academic materials, special education, afterschool programs, classroom technology, professional development and more; plus childcare services and housing rehab loans.

Among additional federal programs using census data that provides local funding are: Medicaid, Medicare Part B, SNAP (food stamps), highway planning and construction, school lunch programs, housing assistance, special education, Pell grants for undergraduates, assistance for needy families, and Head Start funds.

This constitutionally required count of every person living in the U.S. is also used to determine representation in Congress and the Electoral College, as well as in state governments. So communities that are undercounted are disadvantaged economically and politically.

It really does matter! It's more important than ever for residents to respond now. Census counts are used to guide how federal funds are distributed to states and local communities. The federal government used census data to distribute more than \$675 billion during fiscal year 2015.

Go online today, at **www.2020census.gov**. It only takes about 10 minutes. It's important to note that, although it was much debated leading up to this year, there is NO citizenship question on the 2020 Census.

Also because of COVID-19, door-to-door Census work has been limited. **So don't wait for someone to come to your home.** Go online today, at www.2020census.gov. If you need help filling it out, official 2020 Census Questionnaire mobile units will be at various locations around town this month. See list of mobile 2020 Census desk locations below.

If you need help and can't make it to the mobile 2020 Census desks, you can contact Library Director Amy Raff, at the Provincetown Public Library, at 508-487-7094; seniors can contact Hottle at the Provincetown Council on Aging, at 508-487-7080.

Go online today, at **www.2020census.gov**. Or, if you don't have a computer and would like to complete the 2020 Census by phone, call 844-330-2020.

Upcoming Mobile 2020 Census dates and locations:

- Tuesday, Sept. 8, 7-10 am, Stop & Shop
- Tuesday, Sept. 15, 4-7 pm, Stop & Shop
- Wednesday, Sept. 16, 10 am-1 pm, Methodist Church
- Thursday, Sept. 17, 10am -1 pm, Provincetown Library
- Monday, Sept. 21, 3-5 pm, Town Meeting

Second-home owners need to respond for their Provincetown properties

Second-home owners should respond to the census for their properties in town too! A Census response is required for all properties, including seasonal homes. For any property you own but only use part-time, follow these instructions when completing your census online:

1. Visit 2020census.gov
2. Enter the Census ID or address for this secondary property
3. Enter "0" for the number of people living at this property
4. Hit "Next," and when a "soft error" occurs, click "Next" again
5. Select "No" when asked to confirm no person lives at this property
6. Select primary reason — Seasonal (mostly likely)
7. Complete!