



Opportunities for Otsego Troubled by Abbreviated Census Outreach

Oneonta, New York – July 31, 2020

Opportunities for Otsego, the lead agency for the Otsego County Census Complete Count Committee, has learned that Census Bureau in-person visits intended to locate and count hard to reach communities, will end on September 30; a month earlier than scheduled. The abbreviated Non-Response Follow Up period will only compound the impacts of that the COVID-19 pandemic has already had on the decennial Census.

In Otsego County, about one in every two households have still not responded to their 2020 Census questionnaire, leaving enumerators to complete in-person visits at over 15,000 homes from August 11 through September 30. “An undercount of this size will have major consequences on our community for the next 10 years. Each person counted in the Census helps to determine each state's share of congressional seats, Electoral College votes and how over \$675 billion in federal funding is allocated to communities each year”, said Daniel Maskin, Opportunities for Otsego Chief Executive Officer.

A rushed and incomplete Census count also increases the risk of excluding groups who are historically undercounted and vulnerable, such as low-income communities, people of color, homeless, college students, and children under five. Misrepresentation paints our communities as less diverse than we are, with smaller numbers, and will prevent resources from being allocated to areas that need it.

Households have until August 11 to self-respond to the 2020 Census. Responses may be submitted online at my2020census.gov or 844.330.2020. Multiple language options are available online and by phone.

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