

Preparations for the 2020 Census Have Begun!

Congratulations to the counties that have successfully submitted their LUCA registration forms! The Census has updated a map on its website that is tracking communities who are participating in LUCA. This can be seen at: <https://storymaps.geo.census.gov/arcgis/apps/MapTools/index.html?appid=bf0af1d97f30421caa1b5d51f80ff825>

The first step is the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) which is imperative to being able to have a complete and accurate Census. Every ten years the population is recounted. This recount is used to reapportion Federal House and Senate seats along with all the Federal Grant Programs in the state for the next 10 years. The Census counts population by address. In order to achieve an accurate Census count and therefore accurate funds being distributed to the state, they need an accurate address list. The Census then sends mail and/or a person to each address to verify that address' population. If an address is not in the master address file to begin with then they will not be counted. Every person undercounted means lost funding for Georgia Counties.

The majority of registration forms to participate have been mailed out by the Census. These registration forms are addressed to the highest elected official of each county. Please make sure every county correctly completes these forms. It is strongly suggested that counties **make copies of these registration forms before** they complete the forms themselves. **When completing the forms, the liaison is the person that will receive and protect the confidential Census Bureau material under Title 13, U.S. Code. The reviewer(s) are those that will be performing the work of updating the addresses. There may be multiple reviewers and every person that will be working with the Title 13 material must sign the confidentiality form. If you would like assistance from your Regional Commission, they must also be named as a reviewer on the form. The Department of Community Affairs has contracted with the Regional Commissions to assist counties with LUCA. Please reach out to your regional commission for more detail on what this entails.**

If you have already submitted your forms and have not included your regional commission, you may revise the forms and resubmit to the US Census Bureau.

Technical trainings on how to perform the local updates are expected to be held during the month of October. Information regarding the details of these trainings have yet to be determined by the Census Bureau. It is expected that the technical trainings will follow a similar model to those of the promotional workshops with trainings happening across the state in each regional commission. Stayed tuned to learn more about when these workshops will become available.

General information about the LUCA program may be found on the Census LUCA program page of the US Census Bureau's website. <https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/luca.html> Here you will find information about LUCA including timelines, FAQs, address list layouts, instructions for Geocoding, etc.

Action Items:

- Please have your LUCA liaison complete registration forms that were sent to the highest elected official**
- List everyone that will be working with the confidential materials as a reviewer, including your regional commission if you may seek its assistance at any point**
- Contact your regional commission to let them know that you have completed your forms**