



PRESS RELEASE

**State of Wyoming
Department of Administration and Information
Economic Analysis Division
2800 Central Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Ph. 307-777-7161 Fax 307-632-1819**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Amy Bittner, Economist

Census Day is Here – April 1, 2010

CHEYENNE - April 1, 2010 is National Census Day and operations to count every person in Wyoming are in full-swing. Census 2010 questionnaires have been hand-delivered and mailed to Wyoming households. Staff from Wyoming's two Local Census Offices (Casper and Cheyenne) are currently conducting the Service-Based Enumeration to count persons that may be experiencing homelessness. The population living on the Wind River Reservation or in cities or towns surrounded by tribal land will be counted via interviews with census workers and this operation will run until May 28.

Starting April 1, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin to count persons living in Group Quarters. Group Quarters include dormitories, jails, prisons, military barracks, group homes, and nursing homes. The largest operation for Census 2010, Non-Response Follow-Up, will start May 1. Non-Response Follow-Up involves census workers visiting housing units that have not returned their Census questionnaire.

The 2010 Census questionnaire is only 10 questions, which makes it one of the shortest census forms in history. Response to the census questionnaire is required by law. "April 1st is now here and it is a perfect time for households to complete and mail back their 2010 Census questionnaire. It is safe and confidential and it is one of the simplest and easiest things that a person can do to help their local community," commented Amy Bittner, an economist with the Economic Analysis Division and coordinator of Census 2010 Wyoming Counts. "In addition, mailing back the form helps lower the costs of the 2010 Census because it reduces the number of workers that must go door-to-door to collect the information," Bittner also stated. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that \$60-70 per census form is saved if it is returned by mail.

The allocation of Federal Funding to communities is based on population data, and it also determines state revenue distributions to cities, towns, and counties for the next ten years. The data are used to establish the boundaries for legislative districts. Census data are critical for local planning efforts such as business and economic development, new schools, and transportation and infrastructure projects.

"If people are concerned about being counted and their household has not received a Census 2010 questionnaire, it is strongly recommended that they visit a Questionnaire Assistance Center or Be

Counted site to obtain a blank form,” Bittner stated. These locations have been set up all over the State and will be open until April 19.

A list of Questionnaire Assistance Centers and Be Counted sites in Wyoming,
http://eadiv.state.wy.us/wyoming_counts/QACsBeCounted.pdf

For the first time, the U.S. Census Bureau has an internet mapping application that shows current mail participation rates by state, county, place, and census tract. “The Take 10 Map is a new and exciting application that allows people to see how their local area is responding to the 2010 Census,” stated Bittner. The information is updated daily, Monday-Friday. “Currently, Wyoming’s mail participation rate is over 50 percent. In 2000, Wyoming’s mail participation rate was the same as the U.S., 72 percent,” said Bittner. The U.S. Census Bureau is encouraging all areas to improve their 2000 participation rate by 10 percent for Census 2010. “It would be great to see Wyoming’s overall mail participation rate over 80 percent,” commented Bittner.

Take 10 Map, <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/>

Census 2010 Operations time-line:

- March 1 - April 2: Questionnaires are hand-delivered to areas where mail is not delivered to a physical address.
- March 15 - 17: Questionnaires are mailed to areas where mail is delivered to physical address.
- March 22 – May 28: Wind River Reservation Enumeration (counting via interviews).
- March 23 – April 20: Questionnaires mailed in Late Mailing phase.
- March 29 - 31: Service Based Enumeration (counting people experiencing homelessness).
- **APRIL 1, 2010 - CENSUS DAY**
- April 1 – 3: Blanket replacement questionnaires mailed.
- April 6 - 10: Targeted replacement questionnaires mailed.
- April 1 – May 14: Group Quarters Enumeration (dormitories, military barrack, jails, and nursing homes).
- May 1 – August 27: Non-Response Follow-Up for housing units.

For more information about the 2010 Census, www.2010census.gov

Census 2010 Wyoming Counts, http://eadiv.state.wy.us/wyoming_counts/