



OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER  
MELISSA CONYEARS-ERVIN • TREASURER • CITY OF CHICAGO

\*\*\*Tuesday, September 29, 2020\*\*\*

### **City Treasurer Urges Residents to Complete Census**

Over the past several months, I'm sure you've listened to me, other elected officials and community leaders urge you to get registered to vote and to ensure that you fill out your census to guarantee that you're counted. Considering some may not think that taking the census a necessity, I'd like to provide you with a few reasons why we must all play our part.

**The census is only taken once every ten years.** While you may be exhausted by the constant census talk, if you don't participate it will be another ten years before you're able to be counted again. This has many implications that will limit federal funding and resources that are committed to your family and your community.

**There is more than \$675 billion at stake tied to the census.** The number of people who live in a community is the determining factor in how much of the more than \$675 billion is invested in your community. Businesses use census data to determine where they would prefer to build factories, offices, and stores, which will create jobs for the communities you live in. The number of opportunities available to you and your family increases when you take the census.

**Reduced risks for businesses.** One of my goals in this office is to support the small businesses in the city that require assistance right now. We've done this through the Chicago Community Catalyst Fund, which has proven to be a valuable resource to business owners in the city. Census data allows businesses to determine the need for their products and services in a particular community, which can have a significant impact on their success.

As our city battles through this pandemic with the rest of the country, the importance of the census is magnified. I'm urging all of you to take the couple minutes it takes to ensure our communities have the necessary resources in the next ten years. Just as the upcoming election, it is crucial to our city, our state, and our country.