Libraries have always played an important role in promoting and supporting efforts to obtain full participation within a community, the expectation is that there will be greater demands placed upon libraries in the upcoming census due to the transition to a primarily digital survey process – especially in the North Country service area where many communities face connectivity issues.

The decennial census is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution and it is to include people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and noncitizens residing in the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas of the United States. The U.S. Census Bureau must submit the census totals to the President of the United States by December 31, 2020. Libraries will need to be engaged in the 2019 planning processes to help launch a successful 2020 survey.

Census data are used in many ways. Some examples include:

- Distribution of more than $675 billion annually in federal funds back to tribal, state, and local governments for all types of programs including highway planning and construction, grants to local education agencies, special education grants, Head Start, foster care support and child care assistance.
- Determining the number of representatives each state has in Congress.
- Redistricting of state legislative districts.
- Forecasting the future transportation needs for all segments of the population.
- Determining areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans.
- Assisting federal, tribal, state, and local governments in planning and implementing programs, services, and emergency response.
- Designing facilities for people with disabilities, the elderly and children.
- Businesses use the data when determining financial investments such as the location of stores in a community.

As trusted sources of information, digital literacy support and community engagement, libraries play a vital role in ensuring that all individuals residing in a community are counted in the 2020 Census. The New York State 2020 Complete Count Commission has been created; and it does include a representative from the library community: Lauren Moore, Executive Director of the Pioneer Library.
System. The Commission is asking New York State to make a $60 million investment in its libraries to assure a complete count. This funding would support several key needs:

- Libraries will need to meet an increased demand for internet access.
- Early results from a census test in Providence, Rhode Island, suggest that the online census is difficult for individuals with limited digital literacy skills. Additional library staffing will be needed to meet the demand for one-on-one support.
- Additional levels of security and accountability will be required to ensure online privacy and security of the census survey.

There are still many questions about the overall census survey process. One main concern is the potential inclusion of a question about citizenship or immigration status. It is unclear whether this type of question would jeopardize achieving maximum census participation or perhaps library participation in order to maintain public trust.

Your Library System will keep you posted as more information becomes available.
North Country Service Area – Issues Around Census Self-Response
https://www.censushardtocountmaps2020.us/

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Based on the latest census estimates (for the 2012-2016 period), **111,594 people live in 43,428 households** in this county, and **6,372 people live in group quarters**. (Total population = **117,966**.)

Some population characteristics that may affect this county's participation in the 2020 Census include:

Census Self-Response

In 2010, **77.6% of the county's households mailed back their 2010 census questionnaire**, requiring more costly and difficult in-person follow up to enumerate the remaining 22.4%.

Based on the latest census estimates, **approx. 18% of Jefferson County's current population (or 21,691 people) lives in hard-to-count neighborhoods**. Without higher self-response, more households in these and other neighborhoods in the state are at risk of being missed in the 2020 census.

In 2020, for the first time the Census Bureau will be urging most households to submit their census responses online via the Internet. In 2016, **17.1% of Jefferson County's households** had either no Internet subscriptions or dial up-only access, according to the latest American Community Survey estimates.

OSWEGO COUNTY

Based on the latest census estimates (for the 2012-2016 period), **115,651 people live in 45,374 households** in this county, and **4,862 people live in group quarters**. (Total population = **120,513**.)

Some population characteristics that may affect this county's participation in the 2020 Census include:

Census Self-Response

In 2010, **83.1% of the county's households mailed back their 2010 census questionnaire**, requiring more costly and difficult in-person follow up to enumerate the remaining 16.9%.

In 2020, for the first time the Census Bureau will be urging most households to submit their census responses online via the Internet. In 2016, **15.6% of Oswego County's households** had either no Internet subscriptions or dial up-only access, according to the latest American Community Survey estimates.
LEWIS COUNTY

Based on the latest census estimates (for the 2012-2016 period), 26,745 people live in 10,307 households in this county, and 362 people live in group quarters. (Total population = 27,107.)

Some population characteristics that may affect this county's participation in the 2020 Census include:

Census Self-Response

In 2010, 83.3% of the county's households mailed back their 2010 census questionnaire, requiring more costly and difficult in-person follow up to enumerate the remaining 16.7%.

In 2020, for the first time the Census Bureau will be urging most households to submit their census responses online via the Internet. The Census Bureau's latest American Community Survey does not provide data for Lewis County.

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

Based on the latest census estimates (for the 2012-2016 period), 99,723 people live in 41,466 households in this county, and 11,806 people live in group quarters. (Total population = 111,529.)

Some population characteristics that may affect this county's participation in the 2020 Census include:

Census Self-Response

In 2010, 81.6% of the county's households mailed back their 2010 census questionnaire, requiring more costly and difficult in-person follow up to enumerate the remaining 18.4%.

Based on the latest census estimates, approx. 2% of St. Lawrence County's current population (or 2,356 people) lives in hard-to-count neighborhoods. Without higher self-response, more households in these and other neighborhoods in the state are at risk of being missed in the 2020 census.

Another 5,362 people (~4.8% of St. Lawrence County's current population) live in tracts that did not receive a census questionnaire by mail in 2010 because these areas did not have traditional addresses, had large numbers of seasonally vacant housing, or were otherwise rural or sparsely populated. In the 2010 Census, the net undercount in these tracts was nearly 8%, according to the Census Bureau. Therefore, these areas also may be hard to count in 2020.

In 2020, for the first time the Census Bureau will be urging most households to submit their census responses online via the Internet. In 2016, 19.4% of St. Lawrence County's households had either no Internet subscriptions or dial up-only access, according to the latest American Community Survey estimates.
CLINTON COUNTY

Based on the latest census estimates (for the 2013-2017 period), **73,541 people live in 31,680 households** in this county, and **7,683 people live in group quarters**. (Total population = 81,224.)

Some population characteristics that may affect this county’s participation in the 2020 Census include:

Census Self-Response

In 2010, **80.6% of the county’s households mailed back their 2010 census questionnaire**, requiring more costly and difficult in-person follow up to enumerate the remaining 19.4%.

Based on the latest census estimates, **approx. 7% of Clinton County’s current population (or 5,437 people) lives in hard-to-count neighborhoods**. Without higher self-response, more households in these and other neighborhoods in the state are at risk of being missed in the 2020 census.

In 2020, for the first time the Census Bureau will be urging most households to submit their census responses online via the internet. During 2013-17, **19.6% of Clinton County’s households had either no internet access or dial up-only**, according to the latest American Community Survey estimates.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Based on the latest census estimates (for the 2013-2017 period), **45,112 people live in 18,956 households** in this county, and **5,942 people live in group quarters**. (Total population = 51,054.)

Some population characteristics that may affect this county’s participation in the 2020 Census include:

Census Self-Response

In 2010, **79.2% of the county’s households mailed back their 2010 census questionnaire**, requiring more costly and difficult in-person follow up to enumerate the remaining 20.8%.

Based on the latest census estimates, **approx. 6% of Franklin County’s current population (or 3,292 people) lives in hard-to-count neighborhoods**. Without higher self-response, more households in these and other neighborhoods in the state are at risk of being missed in the 2020 census.

In 2020, for the first time the Census Bureau will be urging most households to submit their census responses online via the internet. During 2013-17, **25.5% of Franklin County’s households had either no internet access or dial up-only**, according to the latest American Community Survey estimates.
Based on the latest census estimates (for the 2013-2017 period), **35,374 people live in 15,257 households** in this county, and **2,859 people live in group quarters**. (Total population = **38,233**.)

Some population characteristics that may affect this county's participation in the 2020 Census include:

Census Self-Response

In 2010, **77.9% of the county's households mailed back their 2010 census questionnaire**, requiring more costly and difficult in-person follow up to enumerate the remaining 22.1%.

Based on the latest census estimates, **approx. 10% of Essex County's current population (or 3,817 people) lives in hard-to-count neighborhoods**. Without higher self-response, more households in these and other neighborhoods in the state are at risk of being missed in the 2020 census.

Another **1,354 people (~3.5% of Essex County's current population) live in tracts that did not receive a census questionnaire by mail** in 2010 because these areas did not have traditional addresses, had large numbers of seasonally vacant housing, or were otherwise rural or sparsely populated. In the 2010 Census, the net undercount in these tracts was nearly 8%, according to the Census Bureau. **Therefore, these areas also may be hard to count in 2020.**

In 2020, for the first time the Census Bureau will be urging most households to submit their census responses online via the internet. During 2013-17, **19.9% of Essex County's households had either no internet access or dial up-only**, according to the latest American Community Survey estimates.

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