

United States® Census 2010

Mason City has partnered with Cerro Gordo County and other communities within the county to promote awareness about the census, why it is important, and to encourage citizens in our communities to be counted.

Why It Is Important

- **Census affects funding in your community**
Census data directly affect how more than \$400 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation and much more. That's more than \$4 trillion over a 10-year period. Spending just a few minutes to fill out your census form will help ensure your community gets its fair share of federal and state funding. **Over the 10 years between census counts a community loses more than \$12,000 for each uncounted citizen.**
- **Census affects your voice in Congress**
Mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the census is also used to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and to redistrict state legislatures.
- **Census affects your representation in state and local government**
Census data are used to define legislature districts, school district assignment areas and other important functional areas of government.
- **Census informs your community's decisions**
The census is like a snapshot that helps define who we are as a nation. Data about changes in your community are crucial to many planning decisions, such as where to provide services for the elderly, where to build new roads and schools, or where to locate job training centers.

The 2010 Census will be a **short-form only** census and will count all residents living in the United States as well as ask for name, sex, age, date of birth, race, ethnicity, relationship and housing tenure – taking just minutes to complete. **All information is kept confidential!**

By participating in the census, you can help create a better future for you and those important to you. Complete and return your form when it arrives. Census forms will be mailed to citizens in March, 2010. Census Day is April 1, 2010. To learn more, visit: <http://2010census.gov>

Counting Everyone Once — and Only Once — and In the Right Place



IT'S IN OUR HANDS