February 17, 2010

Dear Adult Learners and Student Veterans,

We are pleased to announce that Adult Learner and Veteran Services is partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to encourage your participation in the 2010 Census. The 2010 Census is more than just a count of our citizens and noncitizens. It is an opportunity to ensure that our community is accurately represented when it comes to funding for essential programs and services. Also, census data are used to reapportion congressional seats to states.

Census data directly affect how more than $400 billion per year in federal funding is distributed to state, local and tribal governments. Census data help guide local planning decisions, including where to provide additional social services, establish senior centers, build new roads, hospitals and schools, and determine locations for job training centers.

Accurate representation and funding are especially important to veterans because these individuals may rely on certain government, community and social service programs. Without a complete count, vital community services such as health care, transportation and other assistance programs may not be adequate.

Because of your relationship with our organization, we hope that you will help us spread the word about the importance of the 2010 Census to your families, friends, neighbors and others in our community. The message is simple: The 2010 Census is easy, important and safe, and your participation is vital. Be sure to keep the following points in mind when speaking to others about the 2010 Census:

**It’s easy:** It only takes about 10 minutes to answer only 10 questions.

**It’s important:** The data can help enhance your community.

**It’s safe:** By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents’ answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to $250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

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Achieving a complete count of our nation’s growing population in 2010 is important to enhancing the quality of life in our community. We will continue to share additional information about the census in the coming months. In the meantime, you can visit 2010census.gov to learn more. Also, please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions about our partnership with the Census Bureau and what it means for our organization and those we serve.

Sincerely,

Jan Rastall
Director
Adult Learner and Veteran Services