**Overview:**

F. A. Q.

Census 2020

Less than 1 year from now, the 2020 census will take place and tally every resident in the country. What many do not know is that census data not only directly affects research statistics, but accounts for $16 billion in funding for the commonwealth and $1.2 billion in funding for vital programs in Massachusetts. If the Census count is wrong, Massachusetts is at risk to miss out on billions of dollars in federal funding that address communities’ health and well-being. Some of the largest sources of federal funding include Special Education Grants, Title 1 Grants to Local Education Agencies, and Head Start/Early Head Start programming.

**Why is this good for Massachusetts?**

Massachusetts needs to do its part in ensuring that the decennial Census is accurate and adeptly represents our state and communities. The effects of a Census undercount can be felt for a decade, and it is imperative that the programs, grants, and services that rely on an accurate picture of our communities are allotted the funding they need. Massachusetts estimates that for every person left out of the count, we miss out on about $2,400 in federal funding over the next decade.

**What our leaders are saying:**

*“We can be proud of the fact that we have so many institutions that service so many people. We can be proud of our economy. But to keep it sustained and growing over the next 10 years, this critical exercise must be successful.”*

* Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin, Census Liaison

*“We need to make sure we are all counted because it determines our representation in Congress and I can’t underscore that enough. We need accurate census counts to protect our voices in Congress… If we don’t do the count accurately we won’t get what is due to us in the Commonwealth.”*

* Boston Mayor Marty Walsh

*“The 2020 Census must count every single person. Our Constitution demands it. Our democracy requires it. “*

* Senator Elizabeth Warren