



City of
Edwardsville
Third Oldest City in Illinois

Office of the Mayor
Hal Patton

October 5, 2020

Robin A. Pennington, Decennial Census Management Division
Program Management Office
via email: robin.a.pennington@census.gov

RE: 2020 Census Count Question Resolution Operation
Docket Number: USBC-2020-0005
Document Number: 2020-16962, Pages: 47162-74165
Document Citation: 85 FR 47162

Dear Ms. Pennington:

An accurate population count has never been more critical for local governments. Direct funding and indirect funding in the form of social programs, both of which are determined by the Decennial Census, are a cornerstone in both municipalities and households, alike. This funding is critically important during the COVID-19 pandemic with nearly every local government and household experiencing negative financial impacts. Communities with colleges or universities stand to lose even more since many schools had closed and students returned home during March and April – just as the Census was beginning. Allowing universities to provide population counts for on-campus student housing was a step in the right direction; however, allowing universities to provide data for their off-campus student population is vital to an accurate count and to fully funding programs upon which so many households depend. Specifically, it is estimated that approximately 1,137 students live in off-campus housing in the City of Edwardsville. This translates to approximately 4% of our total population and more than \$1,700,000 annually in direct and indirect program funding that our community will miss if these students are not counted. I urge you to open the submittal of college and university data for students who live off-campus.

I can be reached at (618) 692-7500 or mayor@cityofedwardsville.com if you would like to discuss further. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hal Patton, Mayor
City of Edwardsville