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## **Louisville Free Public Library steps up to help with local 2020 Census efforts**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (March 4, 2020)** –To help achieve a fair, accurate, and complete U.S. Census count, the Louisville Free Public Library is joining other public libraries across the country to provide free internet and computer access, inform the public about the 2020 Census, and partner with Metro Government and other local organizations to help reach communities at risk of being undercounted.

For the first time, all households will be invited to complete the Census online. Starting March 12, residents can visit any Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL) location to complete the Census form online using a library computer. Residents will have quick access to the online Census through an icon on computer desktops, and library staff will be able to assist in accessing the form. Households that do not respond electronically by April 1 will be mailed a paper form with options to respond to the form in writing or by phone.

For more than two decades, the Louisville Free Public Library has been helping bridge the digital divide in the community by providing free access to more than 700 public computers, internet, and Wi-Fi at its 17 locations throughout Metro Louisville. With more than 25% of residents in Louisville living without a computer or internet in the home, having safe, reliable and free digital access is critical, especially for many of the groups designated by the Census Bureau as “hard-to-count.”

“LFPL is uniquely positioned to reach many of the ‘hard-to-count’ populations in our community,” said Library Director Lee Burchfield. “Whether we are interacting with young children and caregivers at storytimes, providing services to those experiencing homelessness, or reaching out to our immigrant and minority populations, our well trained staff understand what is at stake and are ready to answer questions about the Census and help residents get online to participate.”

Participating in the Census is required by the U.S. Constitution and is an important part of civic responsibility. It is essential that everyone be counted as the results of the 2020 Census will be used to allocate billions of dollars in federal funding to local communities and will help determine Louisville’s future for the next ten years.

To learn more about the 2020 Census, visit [louisvilleky.gov/census](http://louisvilleky.gov/census). For more information about Louisville Free Public Library locations and hours of operation, visit [LFPL.org/branches](http://LFPL.org/branches).