



Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System Vital to Complete Count

Jason T. Eastman • New York

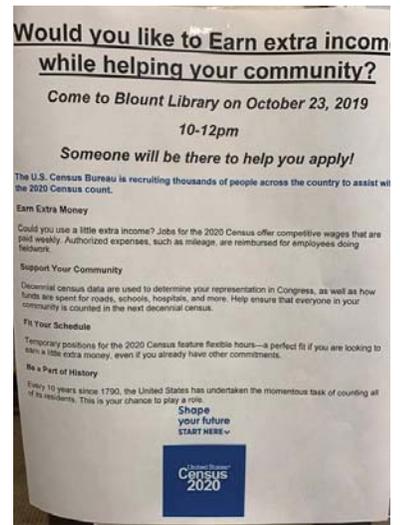
Libraries are the foundation of many rural communities where bear sightings sometimes outnumber warm gathering places and public wi-fi hotspots. These community cornerstones include the 36 libraries in the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System (CCLS), which spans across the two most southwestern counties of New York State. Given the library system's expansive outreach efforts for the 2020 Census, they are now truly serving all 339,684 residents of these two counties.

Almost all system libraries link to the 2020 Census on their home pages and most regularly share updates about the decennial count via their social media platforms. You will also see posters and fliers prominently displayed at most of these libraries. A part-time librarian in the system shared how they helped a resident apply to work for their fifth consecutive decennial census.

CCLS representatives serve on two Complete Count Committees (CCC) in Chautauqua County - one in the south, hosted by The City of Jamestown, and another in the north, hosted by the local United Way - and a statewide Library CCC, started by the Empire State Library Network, with a focus on ensuring that library staff members receive census training to best serve their communities.

During National Recruitment Week, CCLS hosted seven mini-job fairs across the region where U.S. Census Bureau representatives could assist recruits

with their applications. That list includes Delevan, Dunkirk, Franklinville, Machias, Olean, Salamanca, and Silver Creek. New outreach efforts are also being initiated across both counties where librarians are networking with teachers to promote the Statistics in Schools program. Similarly, CCLS will soon be coordinating tribal outreach efforts through the many libraries serving several territories of The Seneca Nation of Indians. Some CCLS libraries already scheduled census events and parties in February and March to promote self-response. ■



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PHONE: (212) 882-2130
 EMAIL: newyork.rcc.Partnership@2020census.gov
 WEBSITE: <https://www.census.gov/partners/2020.html>

