



Hays County, Texas

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Information for the News Media

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March 10, 2010

2010 Census Participation Means Fair Share of Federal Funding for Programs in Hays County

CAPCOG estimate: Each Hays resident worth \$1,300 per year in federal dollars

2000 Census: Only 65 percent of Hays households responded

Hays County Courthouse, San Marcos, TX – Hays County stands to receive some \$70.3 million per year in additional funds for the next 10 years if the April 1 U.S. Census count is accurate, according to estimates made by the Capital Area Council of Governments. Hays County's population is estimated to have grown by roughly 54,000 people since the last Census, when only 65 percent of the estimated 35,000-plus occupied households returned their Census questionnaires.

According to an analysis by CAPCOG, each Hays County resident is worth about \$1,300 in federal funding per year over the 10 years for which each Census count is used. Missing only one percent of the total estimated Hays County population during the 2010 Census could mean a loss of some \$1.9 million per year in federal funding.

“We all stand to gain if we get our fair share of tax dollars back from the federal government,” said Hays County Judge Liz Sumter. “That’s why it is so important that every household be counted accurately. If we get a count that is lower than the actual number of people, we’ll be short-changing ourselves and have to end needed programs or fund them out of local tax dollars while some of ‘our’ federal funding goes to counties nationwide with accurate population counts.”

The Census, taken every 10 years (the first one took place in 1790) as required by the U.S. Constitution, is used for redistricting as well as to distribute some \$400 billion in government funds nationwide each year – for health care, education, roads, etc.

During the last Census in 2000, Hays County's total population was tallied at 97,589. Since then, the Texas State Data Center estimates the county has gained some 54,000

additional residents. These new residents may ultimately mean higher levels of tax dollars coming back to the the county in the next 10 years through federal programs, IF the Census count reflects the entire population of the county.

Census questionnaires will be mailed out in mid March, and on March 2 Census workers began hand-delivering forms to households that do not receive their mail at their homes. Census takers will also be sent to hand-count residences that do not respond by mail, causing additional cost.

Questionnaire Assistance Centers will be opening soon in Hays County to assist persons who need help understanding or filling out their Census forms. Toll-free assistance numbers have also been set up: 1-866-872-6868 (English) and 1-866-928-2010 (Spanish).

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