

Mayor Coleman Joins Federal Officials to Open 2010 Census Office in Saint Paul



2010 may be more than a year away, but the Census Bureau is already gearing up to count residents, and Saint Paul is taking the lead.

On Tuesday, Census Bureau officials, Mayor Chris Coleman, former Saint Paul Mayor George Latimer and other dignitaries gathered to open the first Census state office in the nation for the 2010 count. The office will coordinate the area count as well as hire about 1,000 workers to manage the count.

Mayor Coleman said that making sure all residents are counted is vital to the City's well-being. In the 2000 count, it is estimated that Saint Paul lost \$35.9 million in revenue and Ramsey County lost \$45.7 million because not all residents were counted.

"Census data provides the basis for many important decisions, including disbursement of state and federal dollars, allocating resources, development strategies and private capital investments," Mayor Coleman said. "We need all residents to work with the Census office to ensure every person is counted."

"Every one of God's children counts, and we're going to count them," Latimer said.

Population figures from the census are used to determine federal funding to states and local areas for everything from Medicaid grants to school breakfast and lunch programs to highway construction. Because funding and state representation in Congress is tied to the state's population, officials said they will work hard to make sure everyone is counted.

Officials said it is particularly important that communities of color get counted. They stressed that participating in the census is confidential.

"Making sure everyone is accurately counted in the 2010 census is critical to the future of our city," Mayor Coleman said. "The opening of the Saint Paul Census Office marks the first step to achieving this goal and we welcome them to Saint Paul as the first regional office in the nation,"

Workers are currently sought for the office and will continue hiring for the 2010 count. Clerks, recruiting assistants and census takers are among current job openings at the office, 180 E. 5th St., Suite 500. Pay for the temporary jobs ranges from about \$24,000 to \$65,000. Those interested in applying can call 1-866-861-2010 or go to www.2010censusjobs.gov.