

Champions of COVID Response

Chicago Regional Census Center Team

United States Census Bureau



Summary:

The Chicago Regional Census Center (RCC) team is being nominated for the Champions of COVID-19 Response Award for their significant contributions to keep the thousands of Chicago Region Census Bureau employees safe, healthy, and informed during peak operations for the 2020 Census. They effectively ensured that all employees were prepared to face the challenges of the pandemic.

Description: The Chicago Regional Census Center (RCC) team is being nominated for the Champions of COVID-19 Response Award for their significant contributions to keep the thousands of Chicago Region Census Bureau employees safe, healthy, and informed during peak operations for the 2020 Census. They effectively ensured that all employees were prepared to face the challenges of the pandemic by overseeing the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment, hand sanitizer bottles, and signage with CDC guidance to 32 Area Census Offices, the Chicago RCC and Regional Office, and approximately 70,000 field staff. A redesign of all office space floor plans was completed to reduce staffing capacity for safety. The team conducted all staff conference calls and performed visual audits to ensure all office spaces adhered to social distancing and CDC guidelines. Existing field operations laptops in storage were reimaged and converted for distribution to staff to maximize work from home. Maps were produced to display a spatial estimate of COVID-19 cases throughout the Chicago Region which enabled management to make informed operational adjustments. The team collaborated with state and local health departments often to ensure staff compliance with safety guidelines, and sent clear, effective communication messages to all staff for continued awareness during a time of uncertainty. Their efforts enabled continuity of operations for staff to conduct the 2020 Census; a Constitutionally mandated, essential function of government.

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Nakia Bartley, Assistant Regional Census Manager

Willie Rogers, Program Coordinator

Debra Stanley, Program Coordinator

Kazeem Hamed, Program Coordinator

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Deanna Deisch, Information Technology Coordinator

Francisco Enriquez, Information Technology Specialist

Charles Pohlman, Information Technology Specialist

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Rick Velastegui, Information Technology Specialist

Kevin Cunningham, Geographer