

LWVJA Census Grant Activities Report

Planning Committee Members and Volunteers: 15 members planned and implemented programs to reach the undercounted population and get them counted. They worked from July 2019 through October 2020, finding ways to be effective even during the pandemic.

What LWVJA accomplished:

- Provided hundreds of informational flyers to local organizations and individuals. Flyers were provided in both English and Spanish, depending on the needs of the group. LWVJA worked hard to review and revise the flyers so they were appropriate for our target populations
- Presented census information on JTV's Bart Hawley Show.
- Provided training and information to at least 10 individuals and partner organizations
- Encouraged census completion by making direct contact with community members and offered the resources to complete the census on-the-spot.
- During just one week of outreach in October Census Spots collected information on at least 35 households that had not completed the census. That is at least \$630,000 coming into the Jackson community over the next 10 years that would not have been collected.
- Worked with the following organizations to contact hard to reach populations: Center for Family Health, Sacred Heart Ministries of Jackson, City Council Wards, Church Organizations (South East and Jackson Area Ministerial Associations), Personal Care Ministries, First Congregational Church Tuesday Lunch), Jackson Housing Commission, Jackson District Library, Jackson Housing Commission, Lifeways, J.A.C.K.S. Family Guide, Columbia School District , Partial to Girls, Jackson College, JTV , and the following local Food Pantries:
 - Jackson Community
 - Christ's Kingdom
 - Immanuel Lutheran Ch.
 - Brooklyn Food Pantry
 - Christ Church Operation Blessing
 - First United Methodist
 - Harmony Baptist

LWVMIEF Making Democracy Work Grant

Grant Purpose: Arrange and host a town hall meeting to educate League and community members about the importance of a complete statewide count in the 2020 census.

The plan for this grant was to collaborate with the Jackson District Library and the Jxn Community Forum and host a Community Forum on the 2020 census. It was scheduled for Thursday, March 12 at 6:30 pm at the Carnegie branch. Due to concerns about the escalating coronavirus pandemic, the library closed all branches mid-day on March 12, causing the forum to be cancelled.

In lieu of the community forum, a league member appeared on the Bart Hawley show on JTV and presented information about the importance of completing the census. The resources provided by LWVMI were used to provide visuals during the presentation and flyers that had been printed for distribution at the community forum/town hall were distributed to other groups.

Michigan Nonprofit Network Census Grant (Be Counted Michigan 2020)

Grant Purpose: LWVJA liaisons will contact representatives of local organizations and offer training, availability and targeted resources to assist them in engaging their populations to participate in the 2020 census. The focus will be to engage traditionally undercounted populations.

Outreach to community organizations was underway when the coronavirus pandemic halted all in-person events in the Jackson community. Many contacts had been made, but the plans that were in place had to be adapted based on the restrictions. Flyers that had been printed for distribution could not be used, but providing information via email to the representatives of the organizations continued. They determined how to best share it with the people they worked with.

As restrictions were adjusted, the plan also adjusted. Print materials with reminders about the importance of completing the census were provided at food distribution and other sites that were offering drive-up services for those they served. "Census Spots" were set up to allow people to complete the census on-the-spot using tablets that were provided by the Michigan Nonprofit Network. These spots were held outdoors at: Center for Family Health, Salvation Army and the First Congregational Church in Jackson. By the time these last activities took place, we worked despite very cold and windy weather. The last two Census Spot dates that were planned ended up being cancelled because the census completion deadline was adjusted.

November 2020