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Governor

*Anthony G. Brown*  
Lt. Governor



*Maryland Department of Planning*

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## Press Release

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### **More Than 120 Thousand New Maryland Addresses Added to U. S. Census Bureau**

State Leverages LUCA Program for Complete Count in 2010 Census

BALTIMORE – The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) updated the U. S. Census Bureau’s master address file as a participant in its Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program. This measure is important because it ensures Maryland’s strong position to maximize the number of households counted in the next decennial census. The Maryland State Data Center, an MDP office, found more than 120,000 new addresses that were not in the Bureau’s current file (see table at end of release). A more complete and up-to-date list enables the Census Bureau to prepare for mailing the 2010 questionnaires.

“A thorough count of population and households is vital to Maryland, its counties, municipalities, people and communities,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “The State uses Census data for analyzing growth and forecasting demands for services. Additionally, local jurisdictions rely on these data to plan for adequate public services, as well as many organizations that study for trends and projections. This is invaluable for evaluating past actions and formulating our sustainable future.”

“Every person counted in the Census translates into meaningful knowledge about the State and, quite frankly, increased benefits to Maryland through Federal programs,” offered Secretary Richard E. Hall. “State and local government as well as private and non-profit organizations rely on these data for analyzing trends, predicting needs and formulating program strategies.”

For the first time, the Census Bureau allowed states to participate directly in the LUCA program. In the past, only local jurisdictions, e. g. counties and municipalities, were eligible to submit addresses. Maryland was one of a few states that participated on a statewide basis. While the Census has yet to receive all LUCA submissions, Maryland is likely to be the only State to provide as extensive an update of addresses for every county.

Michel Lettré, Director of MDP’s Planning Data Services, commented, “More than 120,000 addresses identified demonstrate the necessity to update Census Bureau files in preparation of the upcoming census.” Lettré adds, “The State Data Center and our geographic information system (GIS) parcel tool, *MdProperty View*, were essential in performing this valuable work. Achieving a complete Census provides the State a better understanding of household and population changes over the decade.”

Several Maryland counties and municipalities participated in LUCA and supplied address updates directly to the Bureau. MDP focused on areas in the state where significant new development took place since the 2000 Census. The department also concentrated on the group quarter addresses, such as nursing homes, detention facilities and college dormitories which contain significant population. The Census Bureau will conduct an assessment of all LUCA submissions beginning this summer. Census canvassers will verify all addresses submitted by MDP and local jurisdictions. Additionally, this will enable them to augment the current address list.

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Congress empowers the U. S. Census Bureau to conduct a count of all people residing in the United States every ten years, with 2010 being the next report. The Bureau also conducts an ongoing survey of U. S. households called the American Community Survey (ACS), which collects more detailed information. Accurate, up-to-date mailing addresses benefit both of these processes. Data collected are employed by the Federal government to allocate spending to the states and their jurisdictions, among other uses.

The Maryland Department of Planning promotes growth that fosters vibrant, livable communities, preserves and protects the environment, and makes efficient use of State resources. MDP is dedicated to preserving the Maryland's legacy through smart and sustainable growth. The Department provides technical assistance, information and analysis, education and other resources to Maryland's local jurisdictions. MDP is the lead coordinating agency in Maryland for the State Data Center (SDC) program. The SDC program, one of the Census Bureau's longest and most successful partnerships, is a cooperative program between the states and the Bureau, created in 1978 to make data available locally to the public through a network of state agencies, universities, libraries, and regional and local governments. Learn more about Maryland's SDC at [www.mdp.state.md.us/msdc](http://www.mdp.state.md.us/msdc).

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