**OMNIBUS SURVEY FACT SHEET**

The start of spring weather is coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic, making safe digging messages at once more important than ever, and also requiring more nuance depending on the situation on the ground in your state or region. In areas experiencing typical digging activity and/or without restrictions on nonessential digging, CGA members may want to continue to emphasize the importance of homeowners contacting 811 before completing home improvement projects, especially since many Americans are spending more time at home this spring.

Below are key results of survey data gathered from homeowners in March 2020 about their digging plans, which you may find useful for social media messages, media outreach or other communications.

* An estimated 31 million homeowners are planning to complete home improvement projects that involve digging this year.

* Nearly 40 percent (36%) of homeowners planning to dig will put utility service at risk by not calling 811 before starting a project.

* This means that over 11 million homeowners will risk knocking out utility service to themselves and their communities by not calling 811.

* The most popular planned DIY home projects that involve digging include:
  + Planting a tree or shrub (61 percent)
  + Building a patio or deck (30 percent)
  + Building a fence (28 percent)
  + Installing a mailbox (13 percent)

With so much at stake for public health and safety right now, the millions of Americans who plan to do DIY digging projects this year without taking the important step of calling 811 beforehand are taking an unnecessary risk—and one that could impact their entire community.

***About the study***

*SSRS conducted a national omnibus phone study between March 10-15, 2020, on behalf of CGA. A total of 720 American homeowners ages 18+ were asked for their opinions on home and property improvement project topics. The survey had a margin of error of +/- 3.65% at the 95 percent confidence level.*