



CALIFORNIANS RELY UPON ACCURATE CENSUS DATA

A NALEO CAMPAIGN

ACCURATE CENSUS DATA ARE KEY for federal funding allocations to state and localities. Federal resources are divided up between jurisdictions according to what Census data tell us about various communities' demographic characteristics, needs, and assets. In order for California to receive its fair share, the Census Bureau must master the difficult task of accurately counting the state's dynamic, diverse population.

Historically, certain hard-to-reach populations are more difficult to count than others, including youth, immigrants, highly-mobile residents, and those with limited-English proficiency. California is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted. For example, the share of California's population aged 5 or older that is not yet fully fluent in English is more than twice the national average.



Census-directed federally funded programs that are particularly important to Californians include:

The Federal-Aid Highway Program

Californians are among the nation's most avid drivers, and the state's large geographic size means it has a particularly large number of miles of road to maintain. Using Census data, in Fiscal Year (FY) 17, California received more than \$3.77 billion in highway funding. The largest portion of it was designated for maintenance of national highways and construction and repair of bridges and other highway facilities, which are critical for the economic health of California and the well-being of its residents.

Education of English Language Learners Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

California's population is younger than the national average, and includes a disproportionate number of students who are English-language learners. Thanks to Census data, during the 2013-14 school year, the state received nearly \$150 million to help its young people develop English fluency.

State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

The relative youth of California's population makes the funding the state receives to provide health insurance to low-income children particularly important. Because of its policies oriented towards ensuring broad coverage, the state had the highest CHIP enrollment rate of any state as of FY13. As a result of Census data, in FY14, California received more than \$1.42 billion for its CHIP program from the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$115.1 billion to the California communities where those resources are most needed.

But if the Census Bureau's hands are tied by declining appropriations or limitations that prevent it from conducting a sound decennial enumeration and accurate surveys, the quality of Census data similarly will decline, and many fewer Californians will benefit from these and many other Census-directed federal programs.

Congress must adequately fund the Census Bureau by providing it with no less than \$8 billion for the decennial Census in FY20. It is critical that Congress secure this funding by the start of the fiscal year, when address canvassing, advertising, and other key activities will already be underway. Any funding delay or uncertainty would disrupt the conduct of the survey and imperil the accuracy of Census data for a decade to come.