



ARIZONANS 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 Arizona 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. Arizona is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, including children, Latinos and Native Americans. For example, Arizona is one of the top ten states in the nation in terms of the share of its population that is Native American.



Federal Census-directed programs that are particularly important to Arizonans include:

Rural Utilities and Telecommunications

Although Arizona's urban population has increased in lockstep with other states, there are still a significant number of Arizonans who reside in underdeveloped rural areas with insufficient infrastructure, including parts of the state's large Navajo, Hopi, and other reservations. Census data have ensured that the state receives significant shares of federal Rural Electrification and Rural Broadband Access loans to help Arizona communities stay safe, healthy, and connected.

Veterans' Employment

Arizona is home to a significant number of veterans who are older on average than veterans elsewhere in the country, and who face significant challenges in finding employment and supporting themselves and their families after their service has ended. Thanks to Census data, the Department of Labor allocated about \$17 million to Arizona between FY2000 and 2012 under the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program.

Funding for County Governments

Arizona is known for its beautiful scenery and tourist attractions, much of it located on federal land. Census data help determine how much local Arizona governments lose in local taxes on federally-owned land, and have ensured compensation for those amounts in the form of Payments in Lieu of Taxes from the Department of the Interior: in FY16, Arizona received more than \$35 million from this program.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$20.5 billion to the Arizonan 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 Arizonans 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.