



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

INDIANANS RELY UPON ACCURATE CENSUS DATA

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 Indiana to receive its fair share, the Census Bureau must master the difficult task of accurately counting the state's diverse population.

Historically, certain hard-to-reach populations are more difficult to count than others. Indiana is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, such as lower income Americans and those living in rural areas. According to a recent study, in 2015 20.5 percent of children living in Indiana belong to a family living below the poverty line, and the state-wide poverty rate also exceeded the national average.



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

Children's Health Insurance

The state of Indiana has consistently encouraged its eligible low-income youth population to take part in the Children's Health Insurance Program, and in FY2014 enrollment in the Hoosier Healthwise program totaled over 153,000 children. As a result of Census data, in FY15 Indiana received more than \$162 million for its CHIP program from the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Highway Planning and Construction

Indiana's geographic size and rural spaces mean it has a significant number of miles of road to maintain. In FY17, thanks to Census data, Indiana received over \$980 million in funding authorized by the 2015 Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, the largest portion of it designated for maintenance of national highways and construction and repair of bridges and other highway facilities.

Rural Utilities and Telecommunications

According to 2010 Census, 27.56% of Indiana's population lives in rural areas, which are often underdeveloped with insufficient infrastructure. Census data have ensured that Indiana receives significant shares of federal Rural Electrification and Rural Broadband Access loans to help its most isolated communities stay safe, healthy, and connected. In May 2017 Indiana's White-water Valley Rural Electric Membership Corporation was selected to receive a \$10 million USDA loan to modernize its electric lines and make general system improvements.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$17.9 billion to the Indiana 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 Indianans 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.