



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

MARYLANDERS 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 Maryland 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. Maryland is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, such as African Americans and foreign-born individuals. Maryland currently has the fifth largest share of any state of its population that identifies as African American.



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

State Children's Health Insurance Program

The state of Maryland has consistently encouraged its eligible low-income youth population to take part in the Children's Health Insurance Program and in FY2014, enrollment in Maryland Children's Health Program (MHCP) totaled over 137,000 children. As a result of Census data, in FY15 Maryland received more than \$234 million for its CHIP program from the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Nutritional Support for Families

It is critical that children whose families face poverty and related challenges have their basic needs met, and achieve the healthy physical and mental development that will contribute to their success later in life. One of the key federal programs that provides food, and nutritional counseling and education, to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers in Maryland is the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) benefits program. WIC allocations among states are determined with Census data, and for FY16, these data ensured that Maryland received more than \$116.2 million.

Homeland and Urban Security

With Baltimore continuing to redevelop and grow, and a large portion of its population living in close proximity to the District of Columbia, Maryland is among the states most at risk of becoming a target of future terrorist attacks. In recognition of the state's potential vulnerability, the Census-directed Homeland Security Grant Program allocated an enhanced share of federal financial support for emergency preparedness to Maryland. In FY16, the state received more than \$9 million through the State Homeland Security Program and Urban Area Security Initiative, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Additionally, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties were eligible to receive a portion of the over \$53 million in federal funding granted to the National Capital Region.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of nearly \$16.4 billion to the Maryland 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 Marylanders 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.