



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

MASSACHUSETTS 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 Massachusetts 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. Massachusetts is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, such as renters and foreign born individuals. For example, Massachusetts is one of the top ten states in the nation in terms of the share of its population that speaks a language other than English at home.



Federal Census-directed programs that are particularly important to Massachusetts includes:

Highway Planning and Construction

Massachusetts' economy and need for reliable transportation infrastructure are growing, but many of the state's roads and bridges are aging and require repair and expansion. In FY17, thanks to Census data, Massachusetts received more than \$1.07 billion 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.

Head Start

As its population grows to include more families with immigrant origins, numbers of Massachusetts children face educational challenges related to factors such as their parents' lack of English fluency. These young people benefit from access to Head Start classes, and Massachusetts runs a sizeable program: because of Census data, the state received more than \$135 million from the federal government to support this effort in FY16.

Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment

Unfortunately, parts of Massachusetts have been as severely and negatively affected as any place in the country by recent increases in opioid-related addiction and deaths. In 2015 the state experienced a drug overdose rate that was about twice the national average, and four times what it was in 2000, impacting over two-thirds of cities and towns. The increasing prevalence of addiction inspired the adoption of legislation in 2015 that involves state agencies in studying and combatting opioid abuse. Thanks to Census data, the state's effort to turn the tide against addiction were bolstered by more than \$12 million in Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment funding through a federal grant awarded in April 2017.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$22.8 billion to the Massachusetts 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 individuals in Massachusetts 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.