



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

# MICHIGANDERS 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 Michigan 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. Michigan is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, such as African Americans and lower-income Americans. Currently, Michigan is among the states with the largest share of its population that identifies as African American.



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

### Low Income Home Energy Assistance

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides vital support to families struggling to pay for heating and cooling throughout the year. Thanks to Census data, since FY2010 Michigan has received nearly \$1.5 billion in federal funding for this program, and served over 450,000 households in FY16 alone.

### Community Development Block Grant

Michigan's population is overwhelmingly concentrated in its urban areas, where dramatic changes in industry and the economy in recent decades have brought about similarly dramatic changes in housing and infrastructure. Because of Census data that document the density and needs of urban populations, Michigan received more than \$111 million in Community Development Block Grants in FY16. This funding helps ensure the availability of decent affordable housing, and creates jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses.

### Coastal Zone Management

Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality manages over 3,200 miles of shoreline, maintaining the resources of the Great Lakes and ensuring that individuals and businesses can take advantage of the unique economic opportunities the Great Lakes afford them. Under the Coastal Zone Management Act, which relies on Census data to allocate resources, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provided Michigan with over \$2.6 million in FY16 for the protection and management of this land.

**When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$29.2 billion to the Michigan 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 Michiganders 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.