



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

NEVADANS 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 Nevada 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. Nevada is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, such as Latinos, lower-income Americans, and highly mobile people. Between 2010 and 2016, Nevada's population growth well exceeded the national average, in large part due to the growth of the state's Latino community.



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

English Language Learning

During the 2014-2015 school year, 17% of Nevada's public school student population were English language learners. The task of educating them is complicated by the fact that these students are native speakers of several different languages including Spanish, Tagalog, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Amharic. Thanks to Census data, in FY17 Nevada received around \$7.5 million to help its young people develop English fluency.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes

Over 59.6 million acres of Nevada's land - about 85% of its total acreage - are administered by the federal government. Census data help determine how much local Nevada 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 FY17, Nevada received more than \$36 million from this program.

Highway Planning and Construction

Nevada's geographic size and open spaces mean it has a significant number of miles of road to maintain, which ensure residents' access to economic and social opportunity. In FY17, thanks to Census data, Nevada received more than \$373 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.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$6.2 billion to the Nevada 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 Nevadans 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.