



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

NEW JERSEYANS 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 New Jersey 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. New Jersey is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, including African Americans, Latinos, and residents born outside the United States. More than 30% of New Jerseyans older than five speak a language other than English at home, and the most commonly-spoken languages in the state range from Spanish to Chinese to Gujarati.



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

The Federal-Aid Highway Program

Vast amounts of commercial traffic and travelers on personal business pass through New Jersey each year. The state's roads are important not just to residents but to regional and national interests. Using Census data, in Fiscal Year (FY) 17, New Jersey is expected to receive more than \$1.03 billion in highway funding. The largest portion of it is designated for maintenance of national highways and construction and repair of bridges and other highway facilities, which are critical for the economic health of New Jersey and the well-being of its residents.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

Unfortunately, parts of New Jersey have been as severely and negatively affected as any in the country by recent increases in opioid-related addiction and deaths. In 2015 alone, the state experienced a drug overdose rate that was about twice the national average, and 22% higher than in 2014. The increasing prevalence of addiction inspired Gov. Chris Christie to declare opioid abuse a public health crisis in January 2017. Thanks to Census data, the state's efforts to turn the tide against addiction were bolstered by more than \$48 million in Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment funding in FY 16.

Homeland Security Grant Program

With a significant share of its population living in immediate proximity to New York City, New Jersey is one the likely primary targets of any future terrorist attacks. In recognition of the state's potential vulnerability, the Census-directed Homeland Security Grant Program allocates an enhanced share of federal financial support for emergency preparedness to New Jersey. In FY 16, New Jersey received nearly \$29 million through the State Homeland Security Program and Urban Area Security Initiative, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$22.7 billion to the New Jersey 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 New Jerseyans 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.