



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

NEW YORKERS 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 York to receive its fair share, the Census Bureau must master the difficult task of accurately counting the state's dynamic population.

Historically, certain hard-to-reach populations are more difficult to count than others, and are particularly vulnerable to having their numbers underestimated. New York is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, including Latinos, African Americans, and foreign-born residents. The state is not only racially and ethnically but also linguistically diverse, with more than 30% of its residents speaking a language other than English at home; this diversity is an enormous cultural and economic asset, but also poses challenges to data-gathering.



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

Improvement and Expansion of Transit Infrastructure

The availability and reach of transit systems determine, for many New Yorkers, which civic, educational, and economic opportunities are accessible. Census data about the demand for public transit help to guide the allocation of the Federal Transportation Administration's Urbanized Area Program funds, used to plan, build and grow rail lines, bus and streetcar service, and other forms of mass transportation such as ferries. New York received more than \$657 million in FY16 for critical transit infrastructure development in population centers throughout the state.

Nutrition Assistance for Vulnerable 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 and young children in New York 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 New York received more than \$475 million.

Early Childhood Education

New York is also home to many children who face educational challenges related to their parents' lack of English fluency and lower incomes. These young people benefit from access to Head Start classes, and New York runs one of the largest such programs in the country: because of Census data, the state received more than \$547 million from the federal government to support this effort in FY16.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$73.3 billion to the New York 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 collecting a sufficient number of survey responses, the quality of Census data similarly will decline, and many fewer New Yorkers 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.