



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

OHIOANS 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 Ohio 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. Ohio is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, such as lower-income Americans and rural residents. According to the 2010 Census, nearly 25 percent of Ohioans resided in a rural area, compared to 21 percent nationally.



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

State Children's Health Insurance Program

The state of Ohio has consistently encouraged its eligible low-income youth population to take part in either Medicaid or CHIP, and, in April 2017 enrollment totaled over 2.8 million people. As a result of Census data, in FY16, Ohio received more than \$352 million for its CHIP program from the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

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, over FY2013-16, Ohio received over \$580 million in federal funding for this program, serving 431,254 households in FY14.

Highway Planning and Construction

Ohio's geographic size and rural spaces mean it has a significant number of miles of road to maintain. In FY17, thanks to Census data, Ohio received more than \$1.3 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.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$33.5 billion to the Ohio 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 Ohioans 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.