



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

# UTAHANS 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 Utah 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. Utah is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, such as children and Native Americans. A significantly larger share of Utah's population than of all Americans is below the age of 18; in addition, the two largest Native American reservations in the country are located partly or entirely in the state of Utah.



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

### Payments in Lieu of Taxes

Over 33 million acres of Utah's lands are administered by the federal government. Census data help determine how much local Utah 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, Utah received more than \$39.5 million from this program.

### State Children's Health Insurance

The state of Utah has consistently encouraged its eligible low-income youth population to take part in the Children's Health Insurance Program, and in FY2014 enrollment in Utah's CHIP program totaled over 76,500 children. As a result of Census data, in FY15 Utah received more than \$59 million for its CHIP program from the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

### Highway Planning and Construction

Utah'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, Utah received more than \$357 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 \$5.6 billion to the Utah 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 Utahans 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.