



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

# THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RELIES 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 the District of Columbia 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. The District of Columbia is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted. For example, African-Americans account for over 47% of the population in the District of Columbia, well above the national average of 13.4%. The District of Columbia also is home to larger-than-average shares of foreign-born and highly mobile residents who have moved within the past year.



## **Federal Census-directed programs that are particularly important to the District of Columbia include:**

### **State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**

The District of Columbia has consistently encouraged its eligible low-income youth population to take part in either Medicaid or CHIP. As a result of Census data, in FY16, Washington DC received more than \$25 million in federal funding for this program.

### **Homeland Security Grant Program**

As the seat of the federal government and the location of the White House, Supreme Court, and Congress, the District of Columbia is one of the most likely primary targets of any future terrorist attacks. In recognition of its potential vulnerability, the Census-directed Homeland Security Grant Program allocated an enhanced share of federal support for emergency preparedness to the District of Columbia. In FY16, the District received over \$57 million through the State Homeland Security Program and Urban Area Security Initiative, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

### **Support for Substance Abuse Treatment**

Unfortunately, parts of the District of Columbia have been as severely and negatively affected as any place in the country by recent increases in opioid-related addiction and deaths. Thanks to Census data, the District of Columbia's efforts to turn the tide against addiction were bolstered nearly \$7 million in funding from Block Grants for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse in FY16 for the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

**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 District of Columbia 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 Washingtonians 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.