



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

# DELAWAREANS 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 Delawareans to receive their 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. Delaware is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, such as African Americans and foreign-born individuals. Delaware currently has the tenth largest share of any state of its population that identifies as African American.



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

### Coastal Zone Management:

Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control manages approximately 380 miles of shoreline, around which numerous activities crucial to the state's economy are centered. While this region is crucially important to the state and its residents, it is also under threat from erosion and environmental contamination. Under the Coastal Zone Management Act, which relies on Census data to allocate funds, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provided the state with over \$1.4 million in FY16 for the management and enhancement of the state's coastline.

### Medicare Part B

Delaware is home to a significant number of older Americans, especially those who are enrolled in a Medicare Part B supplemental insurance plan. As a result of Census data, over \$304.8 billion was distributed to providers within the state during FY16 to ensure that this population maintained continued access.

### Head Start

Delaware is home to many children who face educational challenges related to their families' lower incomes. These young people benefit from access to Head Start classes, and West Virginia runs a sizeable program: because of Census data, the state received more than \$11.4 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 \$3 billion to Delawarean 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 Delawareans 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.