



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

GEORGIANS 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 Georgia 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. Georgia is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, such as African Americans, lower income Americans, and highly mobile populations. For example, Georgia ranks in the top five in the nation in terms of the size of its African American population, and from 2010-2016 Georgia outpaced the national average with respect to its population growth rate.



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

Veteran's Employment

Georgia is home to a number of veterans who face significant challenges in finding employment and supporting themselves and their families after their service has ended. Thanks to Census data, the Department of Labor allocated about \$8 million to Georgia between FY2014 and 2015 under the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program.

Rural Utilities and Telecommunications

Although Georgia's urban population has increased in lockstep with other states, there are still a significant number of Georgians who reside in underdeveloped rural areas with insufficient infrastructure. Census data have ensured that the state receives significant shares of federal Rural Electrification and Rural Broadband Access loans to help Georgia communities stay safe, healthy, and connected. In May 2017, for example, Georgia's Greystone Power Corp was granted a \$90.3 million infrastructure loan to help meet its customers' needs, such as those of agricultural and industrial businesses.

Homeland Security

As Atlanta continues to grow in importance as an economic hub, its attractiveness as a potential target of future terrorist attacks has also increased. In recognition of the state's potential vulnerability, the Census-directed Homeland Security Grant Program allocated an enhanced share of federal financial support for emergency preparedness to Georgia. In FY16, Georgia received more than \$12 million through the State Homeland Security Program and Urban Area Security Initiative, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$23.8 billion to the Georgia 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 Georgians 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.