



IDAHOANS RELY UPON ACCURATE CENSUS DATA

A NALEO CAMPAIGN

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 Idaho to receive its fair share, the Census Bureau must master the difficult task of accurately counting the state's population.

Historically, certain hard-to-reach populations are more difficult to count than others. Idaho is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, such as lower-income Americans, those with disabilities, children, and those living in rural areas. For example, 29 percent of Idahoans live in rural areas, compared to the national average of 21 percent.



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

Payments in Lieu of Taxes

Over 32 million acres of land in Idaho are administered by the federal government. Census data help determine how much local Idaho 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, Idaho received more than \$30 million from this program.

Highway Planning and Construction

Idaho's geographic size and rural spaces mean it has a significant number of miles of road to maintain, which ensure the state's residents access to economic and social opportunity. In FY17, thanks to Census data, Idaho received more than \$299 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.

Head Start

Idaho is home to a number of children who face educational challenges related to their families' lower incomes. These young people benefit from access to Head Start classes, and Idaho runs a sizeable program: because of Census data, the state received more than \$41 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 \$3.6 billion to the Idaho 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 Idahoans 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.