



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

KANSANS 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 Kansas 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. Kansas is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, such as Americans living in rural areas, children, and lower-income Americans. For example, nearly 26 percent of Kansans live in rural areas, compared to the national average of 21 percent.



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

Rural Utilities and Telecommunications

According to 2010 Census data, nearly 1 million Kansans live in rural areas, which are often underdeveloped with insufficient infrastructure. Census data have ensured that the state receives significant shares of federal Rural Electrification and Rural Broadband Access loans to help Kansas's more isolated communities stay safe, healthy, and connected. In May 2016 the Kansas Electric Power Cooperative was selected to receive \$48.3 million in USDA loans to improve the water reactor at the Wolf Creek Generating Station and the facility's water piping.

Highway Planning and Construction

Kansas' geographic size and rural 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, Kansas received more than \$388 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.

Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment

Unfortunately, parts of Kansas have been as severely and negatively affected as any place in the country by recent increases in opioid-related addiction and deaths. Between 2013 and 2015, Kansas' prescription opioid overdose death rate increased by 28 percent and heroin deaths increased by 71 percent. Thanks to Census data, the state's effort to turn the tide against addiction were bolstered by more than \$3.1 million in Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment funding through a federal grant awarded in April 2017 as a part of the 21st Century Cures Act.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$6 billion to the Kansas 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 Kansans 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.