



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

# MAINERS 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 Maine 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. Maine is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, such as individuals with disabilities, low-income Americans, and people living in rural areas. According to the 2010 Census, Maine is considered to be the most rural state as it has the highest percentage of its population – 61 percent – living in rural areas.



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

### Low Income Home Energy Assistance

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides vital support to families struggling to pay for heating and cooling throughout the year. Thanks to Census data, since FY2010 Maine has received over \$348 million in federal funding for this program, and served over 32,000 households in FY16 alone.

### Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment

Unfortunately, parts of Maine have been as severely and negatively affected as any place in the country by recent increases in opioid-related addiction and deaths. In 2016 Maine experienced a record number of opioid-related deaths. Thanks to Census data, Maine's effort to turn the tide against addiction were bolstered by more than \$2 million in Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment funding through a federal grant awarded in FY17 pursuant to the 21st Century Cures Act.

### Medicare Part B

Maine 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 \$249 million was distributed to providers within the state during FY16 to ensure that this population maintained continued access to healthcare and other vital services.

**When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$4.1 billion to the Maine 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 Mainers 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.