



NEBRASKANS 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 Nebraskans 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. Nebraska is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted such as lower-income individuals and those living in rural areas. Currently, at around 27 percent, the percentage of Nebraska's population that lives in rural area significantly exceeds the national average.



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

Highway Planning and Construction

Nebraska geographic size and rural spaces mean it has a significant number of miles of road to maintain, which ensure its residents' access to economic and social opportunity. In FY16, thanks to Census data, Nebraska received more than \$324 million in funding authorized for maintenance of national highways and construction and repair of bridges and other highway facilities.

State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Given their disproportionate likelihood of living in households in poverty, Nebraska's children depend upon public health insurance programs to ensure their consistent access to care, and their ability to grow up healthy and prepared to succeed as adults. In FY16 Nebraska received nearly \$78 million for its CHIP.

Head Start

Nebraska 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. Because of Census data, Nebraska received more than \$56 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 \$3.9 billion to Nebraskans 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 Nebraskans 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.