



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

Historically, certain hard-to-reach populations are more difficult to count than others, and Pennsylvania is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted. For example, between 2000 and 2010, Latinos accounted for more than three-fourths of Pennsylvania's population growth. The number of Pennsylvania Latinos nearly doubled during these ten years, easily outpacing the national Latino population growth rate of 43%.



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

Housing and Infrastructure Development

Pennsylvanians have endured difficult economic conditions in recent years, as key industries in the state including mining and manufacturing have declined in importance, and median incomes in the state have fallen. These challenges have expanded need for the kinds of programs financed by Community Development Block Grants (CDBG): construction of affordable housing and public facilities, infrastructure enhancements, and job-creation initiatives. In FY16, thanks to Census data, Pennsylvania communities were awarded more than \$169 million in CDBG funds.

The Federal-Aid Highway Program

Pennsylvania's geographic size and large population that is dispersed throughout the state mean it has a significant number of miles of road to maintain. In FY17, thanks to Census data, Pennsylvania received more than \$1.68 billion 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.

Nutritional Assistance for the Elderly

Pennsylvania has a larger elderly population than the average state, and many of its elderly residents rely on federal assistance to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and medical care. One representative program that provides critical assistance to older Pennsylvania residents in need is the Nutrition Services component of the Older Americans Act. In FY16, Census data directed more than \$31 million for Nutrition Services to the state.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$39.1 billion to the Pennsylvanian 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 Pennsylvanians 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.