



# SOUTH CAROLINIANS 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 South Carolina to receive its fair share, the Census Bureau must master the difficult task of accurately counting the state's dynamic population.

Historically, certain hard-to-reach populations are more difficult to count than others. South Carolina is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, such as African Americans, people with disabilities, and lower-income Americans. For example, South Carolina is one of the top ten states in the nation in terms of the share of its population that is African American.



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

### Coastal Zone Management

South Carolina's Department of Health and Environmental Control manages more than 2,800 miles of shoreline, along with critical coastal and ocean resources. Under the Coastal Zone Management Act, which relies on Census data to allocate funds, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provided the state with over \$2.5 million in FY16 for the management and enhancement of this economically-important area.

### Highway Planning and Construction

South Carolina's many rural spaces make road maintenance a priority for residents who rely on the upkeep of transportation infrastructure for access to economic and social opportunity. In FY17, thanks to Census data, South Carolina received more than \$688 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.

### Veteran's Employment

South Carolina is home to a number of veterans who face significant challenges in finding employment and supporting themselves and their families after their service has ended. Thanks to Census data, the Department of Labor allocated about \$3 million to South Carolina during FY15 and FY16 under the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program.

**When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$12.6 billion to the South Carolina 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 South Carolinians 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.