



# VERMONTERS 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 Vermonters 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. Vermont 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 61 percent, the percentage of Vermont's population that lives in rural area significantly exceeds the national average.



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

### Highway Planning and Construction

Vermont's 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, Vermont received nearly \$217 million in funding for maintenance of national highways and construction and repair of bridges and other highway facilities.

### Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment

Unfortunately, parts Vermont have been as severely and negatively affected as any place in the country by recent increases in opioid-related addiction and deaths. Thanks to Census data, the Vermont's efforts to turn the tide against addiction were bolstered nearly \$6.4 million in funding from Block Grants for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse in FY16 for the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

### State Children's Health Insurance

Given their disproportionate likelihood of living in households in poverty, Vermont'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 Vermont received nearly \$30 million for its CHIP program from the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

**When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$2.4 billion to Vermonters 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 Vermonters 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.