



WYOMINGITES 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 Wyomingites 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. Wyoming 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 35 percent, the percentage of Wyoming's population that lives in rural area significantly exceeds the national average.



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

Head Start

Wyoming is home to large share of young population, and includes many children who face educational challenges related to their parents' lack of English fluency and lower incomes. These young people gain access to wider opportunities and increase their odds at academic and professional success when they are able to take part in Head Start classes. Because of Census data, Wyoming received more than \$18 million from the federal government to support Head Start programs in FY16.

Highway Planning and Construction

Wyoming's geographic size and rural spaces mean it has a significant number of miles of road to maintain, which ensure residents' access to economic and social opportunity. In FY16, thanks to Census data, Wyoming received nearly \$270 million in funding for highway planning and construction.

Rural Community Development

Cities, towns and counties are the places that Wyoming citizens live, go to work and attend school. These places are the face of Wyoming to visitors and businesses. Wyoming cannot be prosperous without prospering communities. Wyomingites received more than \$3 million in Community Development Block Grants in FY16.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$1.3 billion to Wyomingites 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 Wyomingites 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.