



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
March 13, 2020

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### **NALEO Educational Fund Responds to Next Phase of Census Operations Amid Coronavirus Situation**

*Self-response to the census is critical as ever*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released a statement from CEO Arturo Vargas on census operations ramping up with the beginning of the self-response period against the backdrop of the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation:

“Among the many challenges the Census Bureau faces, the situation surrounding COVID-19 has emerged as the most significant thus far. As the Bureau and organizations like ours work to promote accurate information around the census and encourage participation, the unfolding public health issues around COVID-19 only exacerbate the difficulties of our existing efforts.

“[As the self-response period begins today](#), with initial invitations arriving between March 12-20, we are aware that the Bureau is working tirelessly to adapt and continue moving forward with its operations amid the current situation, and we are ready to adjust our work accordingly as we learn about these changes.

“As the current public health situation poses additional stress on existing and commencing census operations, we believe the Bureau should use its emergency and rapid response contingency funds to update its paid media messaging campaign. Given the cancellations of many public gatherings, we also look to the Bureau for updates to its mobile assistance initiative meant to deploy outreach workers to such events.

“With everything we are seeing, the importance of self-response remains paramount. As the Bureau plans for its door-to-door, Nonresponse Followup operation, it is critical that households understand that self-responding to the census can help alleviate additional burdens to the Bureau, brought on by COVID-19. We strongly encourage every household to respond to the census as soon as it receives its invitation from the Census Bureau; this response can be online, by phone, or mail. Households that do not initially self-respond will receive a paper form the week of April 8-16. NALEO Educational Fund remains committed in its efforts to work alongside the Census Bureau for a full and accurate count.”

*Self-respond to the census online [here](#) or by phone in English at 844-330-2020 or in Spanish at 844-468-2020.*

*The Census Bureau’s statement on COVID-19 and the 2020 Census can be found [here](#).*

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**About NALEO Educational Fund**

*NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-partisan, non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.*