



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NALEO Educational Fund Responds to Census Bureau 2020 Census Plan Revisions

Cohort of leading national census advocates are calling on Congress to require more thorough and frequent reports on 2020 Census progress

Washington, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released a statement from CEO Arturo Vargas on the Census Bureau’s decision to resume field operations in reopening states amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation:

“NALEO Educational Fund, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC have [submitted a joint letter](#) calling on Congress to conduct robust oversight and stringent review of any and all revisions to the 2020 Census plan. We acknowledge that an updated and evolving timeline is necessary to address the COVID-19 public health crisis; however, we must also stress the critical nature of the census and the impact proposing operational and statutory changes may have on ensuring a fair and accurate count of the population.

“We are deeply concerned about the feasibility of field operations reaching hard-to-count communities across the country, specifically historically undercounted populations such as those living on Native American reservations, rural areas, group and elderly care living facilities, and immigrant and Latino communities. Continuing to undercount these populations would be a failure of this constitutionally-mandated duty and our democracy.

“In response to this unprecedented set of circumstances, we have outlined six steps that we believe Congress, the Census Bureau, and the administration must take before enacting any legislation that would modify reporting deadlines for 2020 Census data. These steps include calling on Congress to evaluate all implications of operational adjustments, assessing the potential impact on voting rights and proportional representation, and working toward a solution to the disruptive effect COVID-19 has had on the enumeration process.

"We also urge the administration and Census Bureau to provide full transparency and accountability when briefing lawmakers on census operations and changes, and the phase-in process for resuming census operations where health restrictions remain in place.

"NALEO Educational Fund believes that the immense and exceptional challenges presented by COVID-19 require transparency and malleability from leadership in Congress, the Census Bureau, and the administration if a fair and accurate count in the 2020 Census is to be achieved."

Residents can self-respond to the census online at <https://my2020census.gov/> or over the phone in English by dialing 844-330-2020 or in Spanish at 844-468-2020. [Paper census forms](#) began arriving in the mail on April 8, which can be returned via mail once completed.

Individuals with questions about the census can call NALEO Educational Fund's toll-free national census bilingual hotline at 877-EL-CENSO (877-352-3676) – Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.– 8:30 p.m. ET to get additional information.

Partners can stay up to date on tools to continue to get out the count in Latino communities by visiting www.hagasecontar.org/resources, texting CENSUS to 97779, or by subscribing to our email list [here](#).

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About NALEO Educational Fund

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