



TEXANS 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 Texas to receive its 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, and Texas is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, including Latinos, young people, and individuals who are not yet fully fluent in English. For example, a larger share of Texas' population than of all Americans is younger than 18, and a disproportionately smaller percentage of Texans are older than 65.



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

The Federal-Aid Highway Program

Texas's large geographic size means it has a particularly large number of miles of road to maintain. In FY17, thanks to Census data, Texas received more than \$3.8 billion 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.

Early Childhood Education

Texas's population is younger than the national average, and includes many children who face educational challenges related to their parents' lack of English fluency and lower incomes. These young people benefit from access to Head Start classes, and Texas runs one of the largest such programs in the country: because of Census data, the state received more than \$635 million from the federal government to support this effort in FY16.

Children's Health Insurance

Although Texas's economy is growing, its workers still earn incomes lower than the national average, and its families depend upon the State Children's Health Insurance Program to ensure that every member of the state's significant youth population has access to quality care, and the opportunity to grow up healthy and prepared for success in life. Because of Census data about Texan children and their families' needs, Texas received more than \$1.068 billion in FY15 to provide health insurance to young people who would otherwise have been unable to afford it.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$43.3 billion to the Texan 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 Texans will benefit from these and many other Census-directed federal programs.

Congress must adequately fund the Census Bureau by providing it with at least \$4.7 billion for FY19. To control costs of the enumeration and safeguard the accuracy of data, Congress must also reject measures that would make last-minute changes to Census questionnaires and methodologies.