



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

TEXANS RELY UPON ACCURATE CENSUS DATA

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 FY16, thanks to Census data, Texas is expected to receive more than \$3.5 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 \$570 million from the federal government to support this effort in FY14.

Substance Abuse Treatment

Due in part to Texas' proximity to drug trafficking channels, increases in drug abuse have had a particularly significant impact on Texans, including youth addicted to heroin. Census data ensure that Texas receives a significant share of the federal funding available for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants: in FY15, the state's allocation was nearly \$140 million.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$30 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.

We urge you to support the FY17 request of \$251.1 million for the American Community Survey and \$778 million for Census 2020 preparations. We also urge you to reject any measures that seek to make response to Census surveys voluntary instead of mandatory.