



COLORADANS 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 Colorado 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. Colorado is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, including highly-mobile residents, Latinos and Native Americans. For example, Colorado is one of the top ten states in the nation in terms of the share of the population that is Latino.



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

Housing and Infrastructure Development

Colorado offers attractive economic and recreational opportunities, and it is not surprising that the state's population has been growing steadily in recent decades. A need for enhanced infrastructure accompanies population expansion. Thanks to Census data that document Colorado's recent growth, the state received nearly \$34 million in Community Development Block Grants in Fiscal Year (FY) 15.

Early Childhood Education

Colorado'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 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, Colorado received more than \$83 million from the federal government to support Head Start programs in FY14.

Funding for County Governments

Colorado is known for its beautiful scenery and tourist attractions. The federal government manages a significant share of the land on which these sites rest. Census data help determine how much local Colorado governments lose in local taxes on federally-owned land, and have ensured compensation for those amounts in the form of Payments in Lieu of Taxes from the Department of the Interior: in FY15, Colorado received more than \$33 million from this program.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$4 billion to the Coloradan 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 Coloradans 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.