



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

CONNECTICUT RELIES 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 Connecticut 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. Connecticut is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, including immigrants who speak languages other than English. The state is linguistically diverse: more than 10% of Connecticut residents speak a language other than English or Spanish at home.



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

Coastal Zone Management

Coastal communities accounted for 57% of the nation's economic output as of 2013, and Connecticut's coastal areas have also long been important to the state's economy and quality of life, providing myriad opportunities for commercial fishing, marine trades and international shipping, as well as critical habitat for fish, shellfish, birds, and plants. Census data are used to calculate states' shares of federal Coastal Zone Management grants, which have played a significant role in helping Connecticut over the course of the past ten years restore and protect coastal environments, while simultaneously streamlining the coastal zone construction permitting process and eliminating a backlog of permit requests.

Nutritional Assistance for the Elderly

Connecticut's population is older than the national average, and includes many elderly residents who rely on federal assistance to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and medical care. One representative program that provides critical assistance to older Connecticut residents in need is the Nutrition Services component of the Older Americans Act. Thanks to Census data, in FY16 this program will result in the allocation of nearly \$8 million to the state.

Low-Income Housing

Elderly and disabled residents of Connecticut receive significant support through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. Census data are used to divide available funds among the states according to need, and have, in recent years, directed more than \$300 million per year to Connecticut for this important effort to provide secure housing to vulnerable people.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$5.6 billion to the Connecticut 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 residents of Connecticut 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.