



FLORIDIANS 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 Florida 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. Florida is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, including Latinos and people who are not yet fully fluent in English. Almost 30% of Floridians, for example, speak a language other than English at home.



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

Education of English Language Learners Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Florida's student population includes a disproportionate number of young people who are English language learners, and the task of educating them is complicated by the fact that these students are native speakers of several different languages including Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Portuguese. Thanks to Census data, during the 2013-14 school year, the state received more than \$40 million to help its young people develop English fluency.

Water Pollution Control

Nearly surrounded by ocean, sea, and gulf, and featuring numerous significant waterways crisscrossing its mainland, Florida is a state that is acutely affected by the health of its bodies of water. Because Census data provide detailed information about the large number of Floridians whose lives and livelihoods depend on waterways, the state receives one of the largest shares of federal Water Pollution Control grants: in FY14, about \$6.5 million.

Development of Public Housing

Florida is home to significant populations of older Americans, veterans, and others in need of housing assistance. Census data have ensured that Florida will receive nearly \$50 million in FY16 to build, repair, and renovate public housing, efforts that will help the state continue making progress toward ending homelessness.

When it is adequately funded, the Census Bureau produces highly accurate, detailed data that enable us to direct a total of over \$16 billion to the Floridian 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 Floridians 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.