



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

NEW MEXICANS 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 New Mexico to receive its fair share, the Census Bureau must master the difficult task of accurately counting the state's diverse population.

Historically, certain hard-to-reach populations are more difficult to count than others, and New Mexico is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, including Latinos, Native Americans, and people who speak a language other than English at home. New Mexico has the largest Latino population share of any state: as of 2014, nearly half of New Mexicans were Latino (47.7%).



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

Rural Housing and Infrastructure

Although many New Mexicans live in urban areas today, the state still counts among its residents people who live in marginal conditions in rural areas, sometimes without access to utilities and modern infrastructure. Because of Census data that count even these harder-to-reach settlements, the state received more than \$16 million in Community Development Block Grants in FY15, 10% of which it sets aside to improve infrastructure in informal rural settlements including *colonias*.

The Federal-Aid Highway Program

New Mexico's geographic size and wide open spaces mean it has a significant number of miles of road to maintain. In FY16, thanks to Census data, New Mexico is expected to receive more than \$372 million 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.

Funding for County Governments

New Mexico 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 New Mexico 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, New Mexico received more than \$37 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 \$3.8 billion to the New Mexican 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 New Mexicans 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.