



A NALEO CAMPAIGN

OREGONIANS 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 Oregon to receive its fair share, the Census Bureau must master the difficult task of accurately counting the state's dynamic population.

Historically, certain hard-to-reach populations are more difficult to count than others. Oregon is home to disproportionate shares of populations that are most frequently undercounted, including highly-mobile residents and people with disabilities. For example, between 2010 and 2015, the state's population growth easily outpaced national averages as new residents migrated into Oregon.



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

The Federal-Aid Highway Program

Oregon's geographic size and rural spaces mean it has a significant number of miles of road to maintain. In FY16, thanks to Census data, Oregon is expected to receive more than \$507 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.

Coastal Zone Management

Coastal communities accounted for 57% of the nation's economic output as of 2013, and Oregon's coastal areas have also long been important to the state's economy and quality of life, providing myriad opportunities for commercial fishing and other marine trades, as well as critical habitat for wildlife and plants. Census data are used to calculate states' shares of federal Coastal Zone Management grants, which have played a significant role in helping Oregon protect water quality, prevent coastal erosion, and balance interests in new economic opportunities such as tourism against the imperative of sustaining a fragile landscape.

Strengthening Education of Vulnerable Children

One of the most enduring challenges for Oregon policymakers is the provision of effective, high-quality education to students with diverse backgrounds and needs. Oregon has a higher child poverty rate than the national average, and the use of Census data ensure that the state receives a commensurate share of Title I funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for academic support and supplemental learning activities that help low-income children thrive and succeed. In FY14, for example, Oregon school districts received more than \$147 million in Title I funding.

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 Oregonian 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 Oregonians 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.