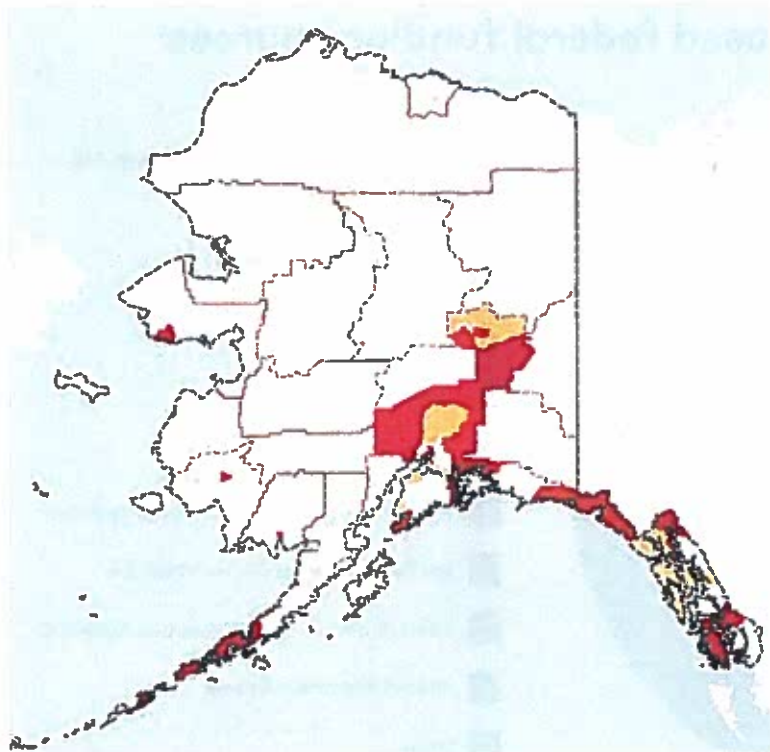


## Challenges of counting the 49th state

As the country's largest and least densely populated state, Alaska has one of the hardest populations to count in the U.S. Census. In 2020, as in past censuses, many areas of Alaska will require special in-person counting methods used only in the most difficult-to-reach areas. Data from the 2010 Census shows why resource allocation will be vital to ensuring an accurate count of all Alaskans in 2020.



Source: Census 2020 Hard to Count Map, CUNY Center for Urban Research

### Special Update/Enumerate Tracts

Many of Alaska's Census tracts are considered special-enumeration tracts, meaning they require special in-person counting methods. These areas are especially difficult to count. **The 2010 U.S. Census undercounted these tracts by an estimated 8%.**

### Hard-to-Count Tracts

Census tracts with a mail-in response rate of less than 73% (the bottom 20% of response rates nationwide) are considered hard-to-count (HTC). Alaska has many of these tracts, highlighted here in yellow, orange, and red. HTC tracts require costly in-person follow-up.

### Normal Response Rate Tracts

The majority of Census tracts in the U.S. had a response rate above 73% in 2010. In Alaska, these tracts are often found in urban areas such as Anchorage and Juneau. However, in Alaska, these tracts require more costly follow-up than in other parts of the country.

## In focus: Counting Alaska Natives in 2020

From physical barriers to accessing remote villages to language barriers and limited internet connectivity, Alaska Natives are one of the populations most at risk of an undercount in Alaska in 2020. Without the resources to ensure an accurate count, the entire state and tribal governments will lose out:

# 20%

of Alaskans identify as Alaska Native. This population is especially at risk of being undercounted in 2020.

# 4.9%

estimated undercount of American Indians and Alaska Natives in the 2010 Census.

# \$3,000

in federal funding will be lost for each Alaska Native person who goes uncouned in the 2020 Census.

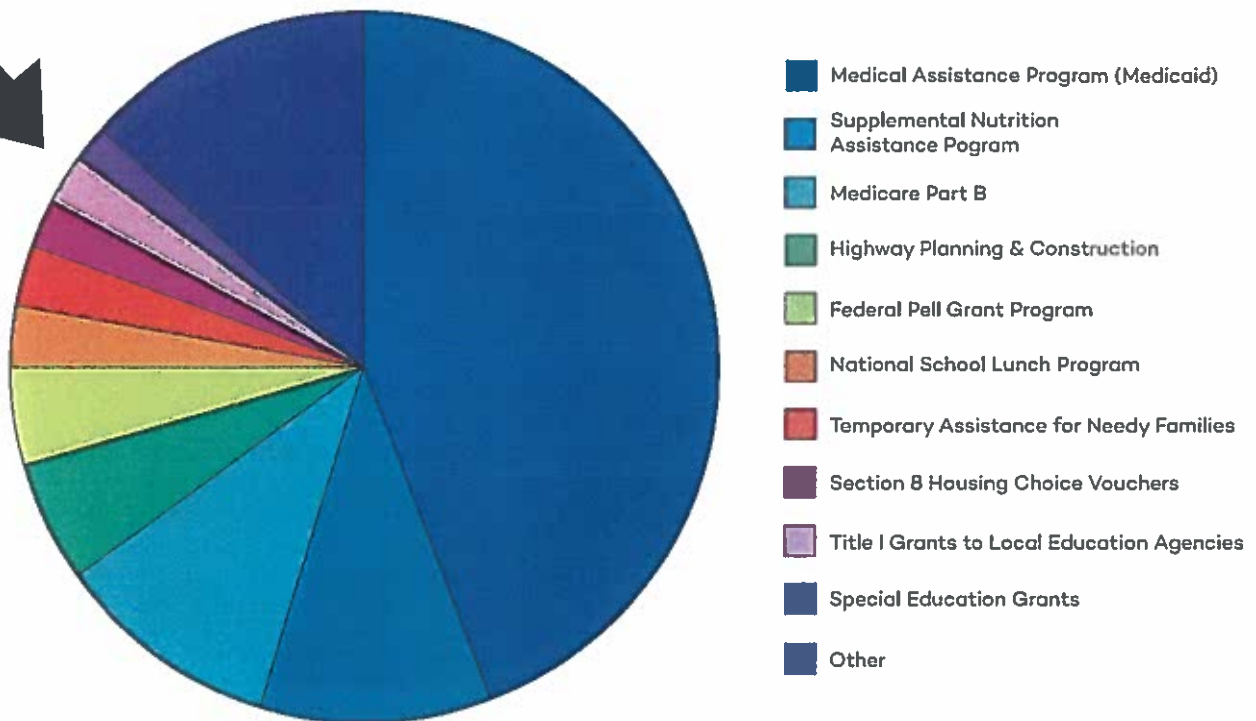
Sources: Key Facts About Alaska Natives, University of Alaska Anchorage; Estimates of Undercount and Overcount in the 2010 Census, U.S. Census Bureau; and Indian Country Today.

# CENSUS 2020 | What's at stake

**\$675  
billion**

of Census-based federal funding is distributed each year. An inaccurate Census count results in an inequitable distribution of federal funding, with undercounted states receiving less than their fair share of federal dollars.

## Largest Census-based federal funding sources:



Source: Uses of Census Bureau Data in Federal Funds Distribution, U.S. Census Bureau

## The effects of an undercount go beyond federal funding allocations:

- State budget deficits are exacerbated by a shortfall of federal funding
- Businesses, non-profits, and government entities are all less able to plan effectively for the future
- Undercounted states may lose seats in the U.S. House of Representatives
- Redistricting may be inequitable because of inaccurate data
- Civil rights and voting rights laws may not be accurately enforced