

EC LEGAL CENTER

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LCF'S 2025  
**ADVOCACY  
AGENDA**

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**LATINO  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**  
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## OVERVIEW

The Latino Community Foundation, the nation's largest Latino-serving foundation, is dedicated to promoting policies that protect and advance the economic, social, and constitutional rights of the Latino community. Focused on key issues impacting quality of life, LCF seeks to engage local, state, and federal leaders to create positive change for Latinos across the United States. Central to this mission is the belief in the importance of a multiracial democracy—where all communities, particularly communities of color, LGBTQ individuals, and low-income populations, have the power to shape policies that affect their lives. In a diverse and interconnected nation, the full participation of Latino communities is essential to building an equitable and just society, ensuring that every voice is heard.

Without question, Latinos are a force. Nationwide, there are over 36 million eligible Latino voters. In recent years, Latino small business owners have become the fastest-growing segment of entrepreneurs in the United States, and it is expected that by 2030, Latinos will comprise the majority of the country's new workforce. The future of the Latino community is inextricably tied to the future of our nation—only with a prosperous Latino community can there be a prosperous America.

Building on this vision, the following policy agenda outlines our key priorities aimed at fostering a thriving, just, and equitable future for Latino communities across the country. These priorities are not only essential to our community but to the strength and prosperity of the entire nation.

**Through this agenda, we will work to ensure that the needs and aspirations of Latinos are addressed at every level of government, paving the way for a brighter future for all.**





## JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

### SUMMARY OF POSITION

LCF will advocate for policies that increase workforce development opportunities, including programs and job training, particularly in high growth sectors such as healthcare, the green economy, and technology.

### BACKGROUND

Latinos in the United States have played a crucial role in driving the national economy. In fact, if Latinos were an independent country, their GDP would be the fifth largest in the world.

If Latinos had equal access to opportunities in the broader economy, the U.S. could secure its economic viability for the long term. However, Latinos remain overrepresented in blue-collar occupations, such as agriculture and construction, and underrepresented in higher-wage industries like healthcare, the green economy, and technology.

The U.S. has the power to transform its economy by creating pathways that include and uplift its largest ethnic group. Congress must prioritize policies that expand educational and career advancement opportunities for Latinos, particularly in high-wage fields such as healthcare, technology, and the green economy. This includes increasing access to workforce development programs, job training, and affordable higher education. Ensuring that all communities, including Latinos, have the opportunity to fully participate in the workforce will strengthen the U.S. economy and drive sustained, long-term growth.







# ♥ ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## SUMMARY OF POSITION

LCF will advocate for the allocation of state and federal resources in California, the removal of barriers to access based on language, gender, or documentation status, and enhancements to state and federal procurement processes to create greater opportunities.

## BACKGROUND

Latino entrepreneurs are a powerful force in the national economy, with over 5 million Latino-owned businesses contributing \$800 billion to the U.S. economy. Latino-owned businesses are growing faster than any other demographic in the United States, with nearly 1 in 4 new businesses being Latino-owned. However, despite their significant contributions, many Latino entrepreneurs face barriers to accessing capital and resources needed for sustained growth. This lack of access to capital creates a \$2.3 trillion opportunity gap that could be addressed if Latino entrepreneurs had equitable access to the financial resources required to scale their businesses.

To build on this momentum, both state and federal governments must continue expanding access to funding, streamline application processes, and invest in targeted business development programs that provide Latino entrepreneurs with the tools they need to succeed. These efforts will not only empower Latino business owners but also strengthen the broader economy by unlocking the full potential of Latino entrepreneurs, promoting greater diversity, and fostering innovation across industries.





# HOUSING

## SUMMARY OF POSITION

LCF will advocate for public investments that support housing construction, tackle homelessness, and promote homeownership.

## BACKGROUND

In the United States, homeownership is widely regarded as a key means of wealth generation and a foundation for strong, thriving communities. However, the ongoing housing crisis in California has made it increasingly difficult for many Latinos to achieve this quintessential American dream. Recent data reveals that 1.3 million Californians face housing insecurity, with Latinos—who comprise 39.5% of the state’s population—representing 68% of those affected. Moreover, in polling conducted by LCF, housing consistently ranks among the top concerns for the community.

The inability to own a home, combined with the instability of rising rent prices, jeopardizes Latinos’ ability to accumulate wealth and build stable, thriving communities. A comprehensive approach is necessary to address the diverse housing needs of the Latino population. While homeownership is a critical goal, rent stability is equally essential. To improve housing security for Latinos in California, the state must expand loan programs to help them purchase their first homes, implement measures to curb rising rent costs, and build more affordable housing units to ensure both immediate stability and long-term wealth-building opportunities.







# ♥ DIGITAL EQUITY

## SUMMARY OF POSITION

LCF will advocate for policies that close the digital divide and address affordability issues, while also promoting policies that ensure artificial intelligence is developed and implemented ethically.

## BACKGROUND

Nationwide, Latinos continue to face significant barriers in accessing reliable broadband. Even in California, the birthplace of the internet, many Latinos report not having a computing device at home, such as a laptop or desktop computer. In an increasingly digitized world, this reliance on limited internet access creates barriers to education, healthcare, and civic participation. The federal government can allocate more funding for programs like the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which helps low-income families pay for broadband services. Expanding these programs would make it easier for families to afford reliable internet.

Furthermore, as digital technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) continue to reshape industries, it's crucial to ensure these advancements don't leave marginalized communities behind. California, home to many AI companies, has seen 80 percent of Latino voters support regulations to govern AI. Without proper oversight, AI could lead to job displacement, drive up housing costs through price gouging, and even cause dynamic pricing in consumer markets, like grocery stores, disproportionately impacting vulnerable populations. Strengthening digital equity requires not only expanding internet access but also ensuring that emerging technologies like AI benefit all communities equitably, without deepening existing inequalities.





# ECONOMIC SECURITY

## SUMMARY OF POSITION

LCF will advocate for policies that expand access to social safety net programs, ensure equitable benefits for Latino and immigrant communities, and promote greater inclusion at both the state and federal levels. This includes advocating for increased investments in state and federal tax credits for families and children, supporting unemployment insurance for excluded workers, and expanding food assistance eligibility to all age groups, regardless of immigration status.

## BACKGROUND

California has made significant progress in ensuring that all communities, including Latino and immigrant populations, benefit from the state's social safety net. For example, in recent years, the Newsom administration has expanded access to state-based health insurance for eligible low-income communities, extended tax credits to workers previously ineligible due to their immigration status and is on track to expand its food assistance program.

However, many remain mistrustful of government programs and institutions. While California has made strides, more work is needed nationally to strengthen the safety net and ensure the Latino community equally benefits from both state and federal investments. Both the state and federal governments can expand access to social safety net programs by increasing funding for outreach efforts, simplifying application processes, and ensuring eligibility criteria are inclusive.







# ♥ IMMIGRATION

## SUMMARY OF POSITION

LCF will advocate against attacks on the human and constitutional rights of immigrants, promote access to public systems such as business development resources, support participation in civic processes like the census and community organizing, and oppose attempts to scapegoat and dehumanize communities through public policy.

## BACKGROUND

Immigration is a critical issue for Latino communities, particularly as they face barriers to full participation in society due to their legal status. While California has implemented policies to support immigrant populations, including access to healthcare and education, many immigrants—particularly those without legal status—remain excluded from essential services and protections. On a national scale, immigration policies need to be reformed to ensure that all immigrants, regardless of status, have access to basic human rights, such as healthcare, education, and fair wages.

Congress must work to create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who have contributed to the workforce and society for years. Expanding access to legal representation for immigrants in deportation proceedings and ensuring equitable enforcement of immigration laws would reduce fear and insecurity within these communities.







# ★ STRENGTHENING NONPROFITS, SECTOR-BUILDING, AND LEVERAGING PUBLIC RESOURCES

## SUMMARY OF POSITION

LCF will advocate for budget-making that includes funding for nonprofits to conduct outreach on government programs, engage nonprofit leaders in local and regional public planning efforts, and create opportunities to strengthen sector influence in state and federal policy. We will also advocate for streamlined funding processes, simplified grant applications, and advance payments to nonprofits to ensure resources reach those who need them most.

Additionally, LCF will support efforts to analyze which organizations are being impacted the most from federal threats to pause or terminate nonprofit funding and work with its philanthropic partners to address disparate gaps in resources, information, and support affecting Latino/a/x-led nonprofits. We will also advocate to ensure that the state's administration does not barter access to federally funded programs for all Californians, regardless of immigration status, in exchange for federal funding.







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# ★ STRENGTHENING NONPROFITS, SECTOR-BUILDING, AND LEVERAGING PUBLIC RESOURCES

## BACKGROUND

Nonprofits are essential to our communities, but they face increasing challenges in today's political climate. The Trump administration is systematically targeting nonprofits that do not align with the federal government's political agenda, resulting in potential cuts to funding, restrictions on their scope of work, and additional scrutiny that create barriers to the work nonprofits lead.

LCF supports nonprofits by offering capacity-building initiatives, training, and resources to enhance their operations and impact, while fostering collaboration within the sector to amplify collective efforts. To date, LCF has helped nonprofits secure over \$800 million in public funding for initiatives addressing health and community challenges, including launching guaranteed basic income programs, establishing air quality monitoring initiatives, and providing cash assistance to families recovering from the pandemic. While the philanthropic sector plays a critical role, it cannot and should not be expected to solve all public problems. Government must take the lead in addressing systemic issues and ensuring sustainable, long-term solutions. By partnering with nonprofits, government can more effectively deploy public resources to reach the most underserved, hardest-to-reach communities, creating lasting impact.







# ♥ CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & PROTECTING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

## SUMMARY OF POSITION

LCF will advocate for fair access to the ballot, support initiatives to ensure accurate Census participation, and launch campaigns to educate and inspire Latinos to engage with the issues that matter most to them.

## BACKGROUND

At the heart of a thriving democracy is the active participation of all its citizens. LCF is dedicated to protecting and ensuring the exercise of constitutional rights, particularly the right to vote. With 36 million Latinos eligible to vote nationally, and California leading the way with 8.5 million eligible voters, it is vital to combat disenfranchisement and remove barriers preventing marginalized communities from fully engaging in the political process.

Through advocacy, we empower individuals, amplify civic engagement, and ensure every voice is heard, especially in communities that have historically been excluded from the political system.

