

¡Ahora es!*

ASPIRA Project 2032

Impacting One Million Latinos



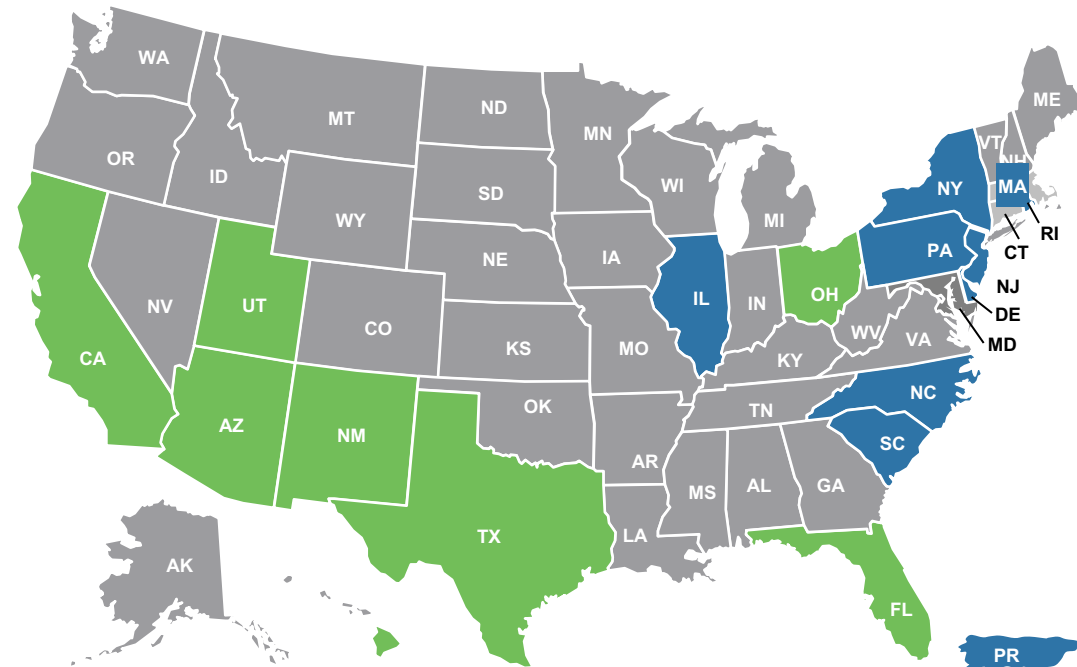
*Now is the Time!

An Investment in Latino Youth



What Is ASPIRA Today?

ASPIRA is today impacting more than 30,000 persons with its many programs every year



ASPIRA Associates

ASPIRA Partners

- **Founded:** 1961, New York City
- **Legal Status:** 501(c)3
- **Mission:** To strengthen Latino and underserved communities through academic support, youth development, community service, and postsecondary education
- **Programs:** ASPIRA Leadership Clubs (>150); mentoring/tutoring/afterschool (>3,000); community service (>5,000); Charter Schools (10); Turnaround Transformations (8), postsecondary enrollment (>5,000)
- **Population Served:** Preschool/PreK to post-secondary, with focus on low-income, Latino communities
- **Youth Served Annually:** 30,000 (2022)
- **Total Youth Served:** Over 750,000 since 1961
- **Communities Served:** 76
- **Sources of Support:** 80% government (federal/state/local); 15% private (corporate/foundations); donations (5%)
- **Partnerships:** Over 200 partnerships with CBOs, government agencies, and universities

ASPIRA as a change agent in the National educational landscape: ASPIRA's Legal Landmark Cases



ASPIRA has played important roles in the struggle for education and language rights for Hispanics and other communities marginalized by the schools systems. The post-WWII migration of Puerto Ricans introduced a new political battleground to Northeastern state schools—that of language rights, which were linked to the continuing struggle over the governance of public schooling in a multiracial, multicultural, and a multilingual nation. The organizing and political activity of Puerto Ricans during this period resulted in unprecedented policies, structures, and institutions designed to fully incorporate them into the economic and political life of our communities. Along the years, ASPIRA has needed to take legal action for protecting and ensuring access to quality education for our youth. The following are two, among others, of the transformational legal actions.

- **The ASPIRA of New York Consent Decree:** ASPIRA of New York, with the representation of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, filed a suit against the New York City Board of Education in 1972 that led to the ASPIRA Consent Decree. The decree, signed August 29, 1974, established the right of New York City public school students with limited English proficiency to receive bilingual education.
- **The ASPIRA of Pennsylvania Consent Decree and Order:** Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission representing ASPIRA of Pennsylvania, initiated a complaint against the School District of Philadelphia on October 8, 1970, alleging that the District was unlawfully segregated by race in violation of the PHRA and filed an order enforcement petition (“Petition”) in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, *Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission v. School District of Philadelphia*. After over 30 years of litigation the Court ordered the District to implement a Five-Year Strategic Plan entitled *Imagine 2014*, in a manner consistent with the following “guiding principles” set forth in *Imagine 2014*: Increasing achievement and closing the opportunity and achievement gap for all students; Ensuring the equitable allocation of all District resources; Holding all adults accountable for student outcomes; and satisfying parents, students and the community.

What Do We Do? Our three pillars.

ASPIRA's mainstay programs: youth development, postsecondary access, and the ASPIRA educational management organization



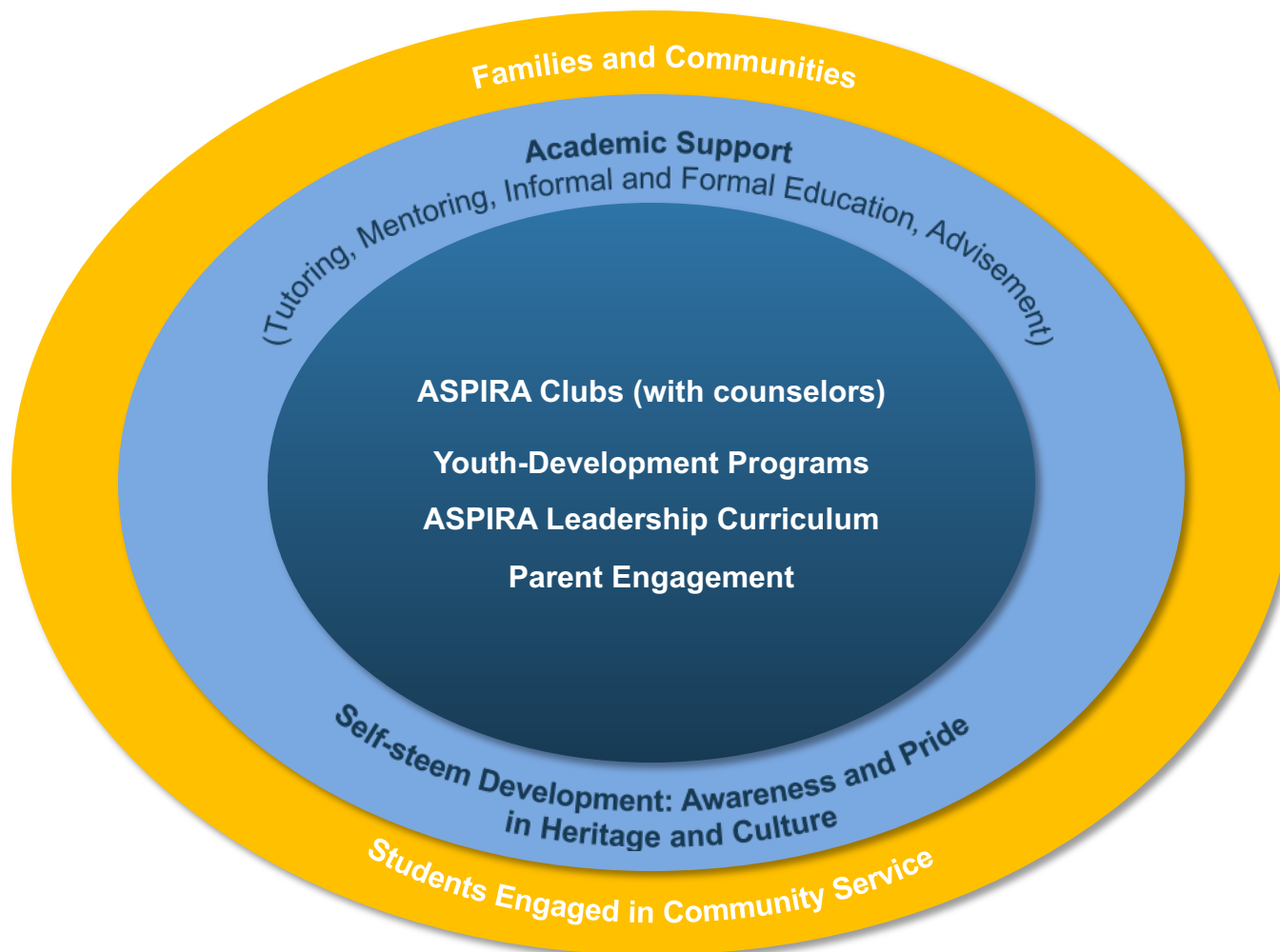
ASPIRA Clubs and Youth Development Programs	Charter and Alternative Schools	Transforming Low-Performing Schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none">College placement and youth development through a diverse range of high-quality programs that empower Latino youth and develop leadership skills, increase academic achievement, and promote college and career readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Managing high-quality preschool education, PreK-12 charter schools, and programs that primarily serve Latino and underserved students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting turnaround and improvement of failing schools through special educational initiatives, and replicable schools transformation replicable models
<ul style="list-style-type: none">ASPIRA High School Leadership Clubs, awareness and cultural prideCollege access programs and talent searchOne-on-one mentoring/tutoringYouth violence and gang intervention and school dropout preventionASPIRA Parents for Educational Excellence (APEX)ASPIRA Leadership development programFinancial literacy programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternative schools and pathways for dropouts and at-risk youthPostsecondary education through Boricua College, Aspira City College and vocational training programsManagement of charter schools<ul style="list-style-type: none">PreschoolElementary schoolsMiddle schoolsHigh schoolsEarly college high schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ASPIRA-led takeover and turn-around of low-performing public schoolsASPIRA support of school transformation without the active takeover of school operations and managementAspira delivers tutoring and mentoring programs in community schools and through community-based organizations (CBOs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nearly 750,000 students served across 9 states from 1961 to 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Serving 70,000 students (total enrollment) in 12 schools across 4 states from 1999 to 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Serving another 400,000 students, teachers, and parents at 225 schools in 9 states from 1961 to 2022

What Do We Do?

The core of ASPIRA's programs are its Clubs, its youth development curriculum, family involvement, community partners, and strong formal and informal academic support



ASPIRA Youth and Academic Development Model



How ASPIRA's impact measured?

Through our product: **ASPIRantes (Alumni)** are everywhere, they teach, start businesses, work in management, raise families, and are leaders in the development of their communities




Some of the thousands of prominent ASPIRantes

- **Fernando Ferrer**, former Bronx Borough President
- **Aida Alvarez**, former Director of the Small Business Administration under President Clinton
- **Anthony Romero**, former Executive Director of the ACLU
- **Jimmy Smits**, Actor
- **Pedro A. Cortes**, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Secretary of State
- **Lorraine Cortez-Vazquez**, State of New York Secretary of State
- **Iris Y. Martinez**, State of Illinois Senator, President National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, Executive Officer of National Association of Latino Elected Officials, Chair DNC Hispanic Caucus
- **Miguel del Valle**, City Clerk, City of Chicago
- **Ninfa Segarra**, former President of the Board of Education of New York, former Deputy Mayor under Mayor Rudolph Giuliani
- **Dr. Jaime "Gus" Rivera, M.D.**, former Director of Delaware's Division of Public Health
- **Melissa M. DiVerito**, Councilwoman, President New York City Council, City of New York
- **Billy Ocasio**, former City of Chicago Alderman
- **William Ramos**, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce
- **Luz Urbaez-Weinberg**, City Commissioner, Aventura, Florida
- **Anibal Ramos Jr.**, Northward Councilman, City of Newark, NJ
- **Carlos Hernandez, Ph.D.**, President, New Jersey City State University
- **Maria Vallejo, Ph.D.**, Provost, Palm Beach College, West Palm Beach, Florida
- **Maria Quiñones-Sanchez**, Councilwoman, City of Philadelphia
- **Nelson Diaz**, Ex-judge and Partner at Cozen O'Connor; first Puerto Rican Solicitor General in Philadelphia
- **Barbara Fernandez, M.B.A.**, Director, State of Connecticut Office of Insurance & Financial Services and Past President of NSHMBA
- **Luis Guzman**, Actor and Producer
- **Henry Cardenas**, Cardenas Marketing Group

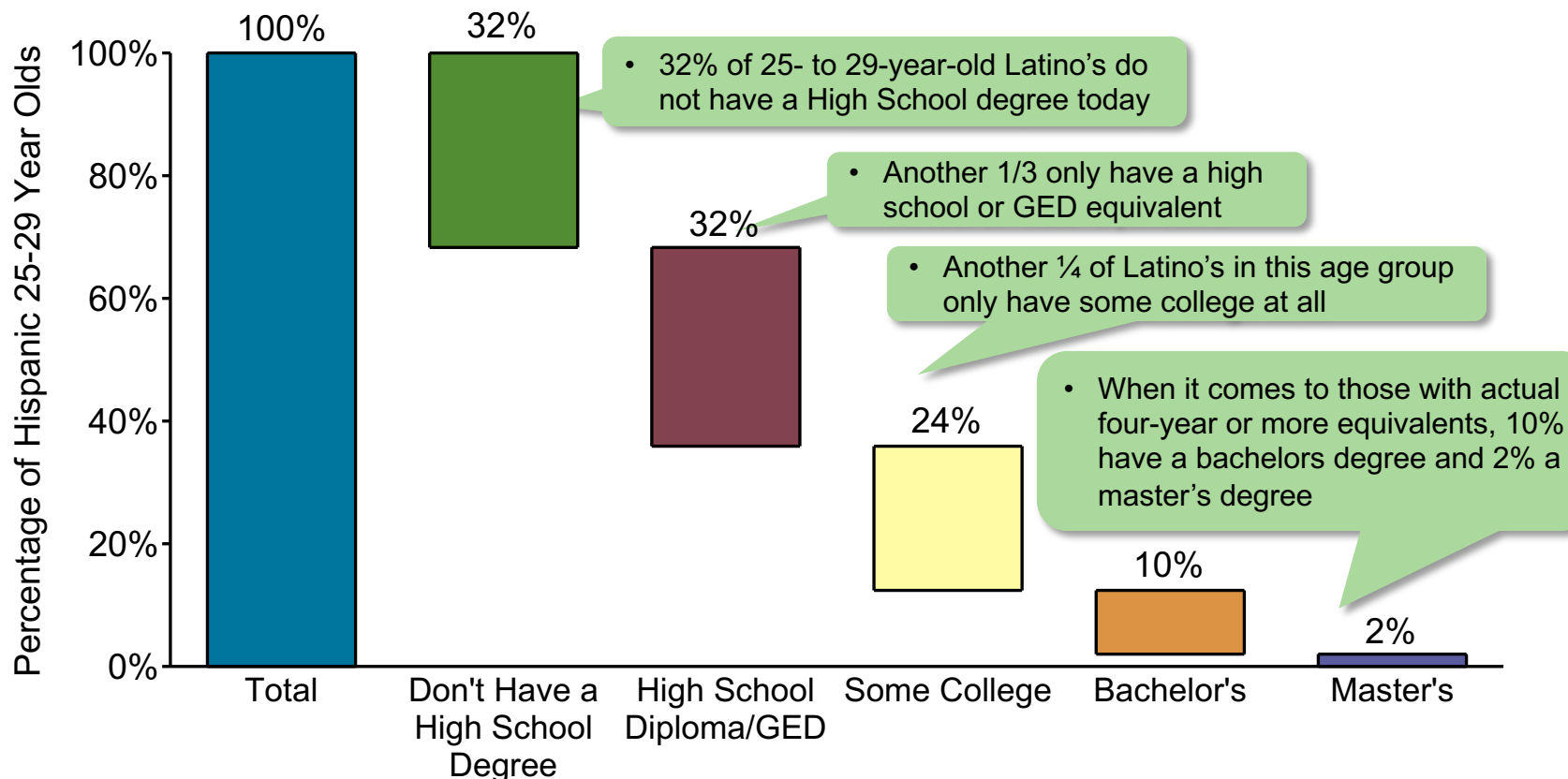
What Is Our Mandate for Action?

Data on Latino youth reveal shocking educational gaps, widest for any ethnic/racial group, already 1-in-3 are enrolled in public schools for the PreK-2 cohort



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Educational Attainment among Hispanic 25- to 29-Year-Olds (2022)

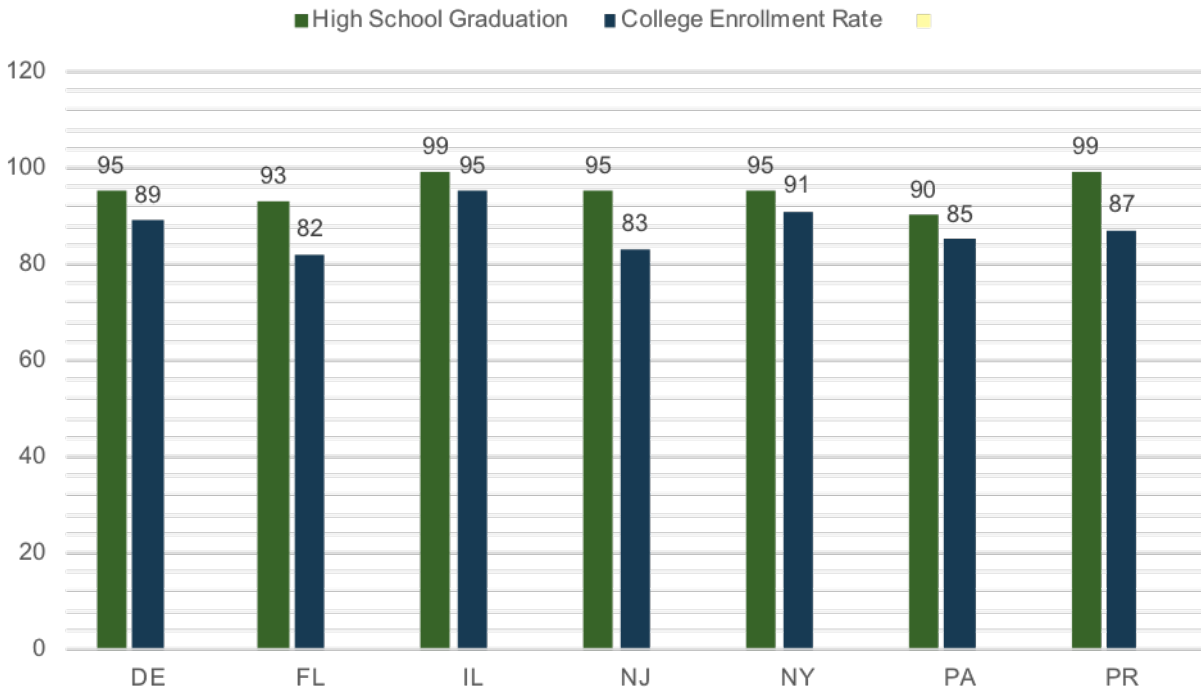


Barely one-tenth (12%) of Latinos aged 25-29 have B.A. or M.A., while nearly two-thirds (64%) have a high school diploma, GED, or less

We know this cycle of underachievement can be broken as ASPIRANtes graduate from High School and continue onto college. Our graduation and college enrollment rates are outstanding.



ASPIRANtes High School Graduation and College Enrollment Rates, 2020



Source: Audited ASPIRA Internal Data (D.O.E. Talent Search Outcomes and LEA - Audited Student outcomes)

Facts about Latinos and education

A rationale for our next steps.



- For many Hispanics, **economic factors remain an obstacle to college enrollment.** In a recent poll, 66% of Hispanics who attained jobs or entered the military directly after high school cited the need to help support their family as a reason for *not* enrolling in college, compared with 39% of whites.
- Here are five facts about U.S. Latinos and education:
 1. Over the past decade, the Hispanic high school dropout rate has dropped dramatically.
 2. **Hispanics are making big inroads in college enrollment.** In 2020, 35% of Hispanics ages 18 to 24 were enrolled in a two- or four-year college, up from 22% in 1993 – a 13-percentage-point increase.
 3. Although more Hispanics are entering postsecondary education, **they still lag other groups in attaining a four-year degree.** As of 2022, among Hispanics ages 25 to 29, barely 12% of Hispanics have a bachelor's degree or higher.
 4. Another reason why Hispanics lag in bachelor's degrees is that nearly half that enter college attend a public two-year school, **or community college, because of low enrollment costs**, the highest share of any ethnic/racial group.
 5. **Hispanics are significantly less likely than other groups to have student debt.** This is because despite the increase in college enrollment, young Hispanics are not as likely to attend 4-year institutions like other groups.

Proposed Strategic Direction: Ahora Es! Impacting One Million Latinos



An Investment in Latino Youth



By the year 2032, to *increase* the number of Latino students accepted into postsecondary institutions by 100,000



Where We Are Today

- Today, ASPIRA has over **half a century of experience** with college and postsecondary enrollment, Youth Development Programs, educational initiatives (eg, NYC Aspira Consent Decree and via special college placement) together with over two decades of experience in improving Latino schools through school transformation initiatives (Alternative Schools, Charter Schools, Schools Transformations, among others), ASPIRA has placed more Latino students into postsecondary institutions than any other organization nationwide.
- ASPIRA annually graduates 95% of seniors enrolled in its formal education programs and enrolls 97% into postsecondary education, primarily universities.
- We know our programs are successful and have a demonstrable impact on Latino communities because we rigorously evaluate outcomes.
- With over 60 years of experience, ASPIRA is the largest Hispanic educational organization in the nation, including its services in Puerto Rico.

ASPIRA Projected Goal for 2032

- By 2032, ASPIRA will have **increased** the number of Latino students accepted into postsecondary institutions by **10,000 annually**—over **100,000** college entrants this decade—more than tripling current ASPIRA programs and educational outcomes.

What Are Our Aspirations and Goals?

Over the next ten years, we plan to increase the number of Latinos accepted into postsecondary learning institutions by 10,000 per year by increasing academic performance



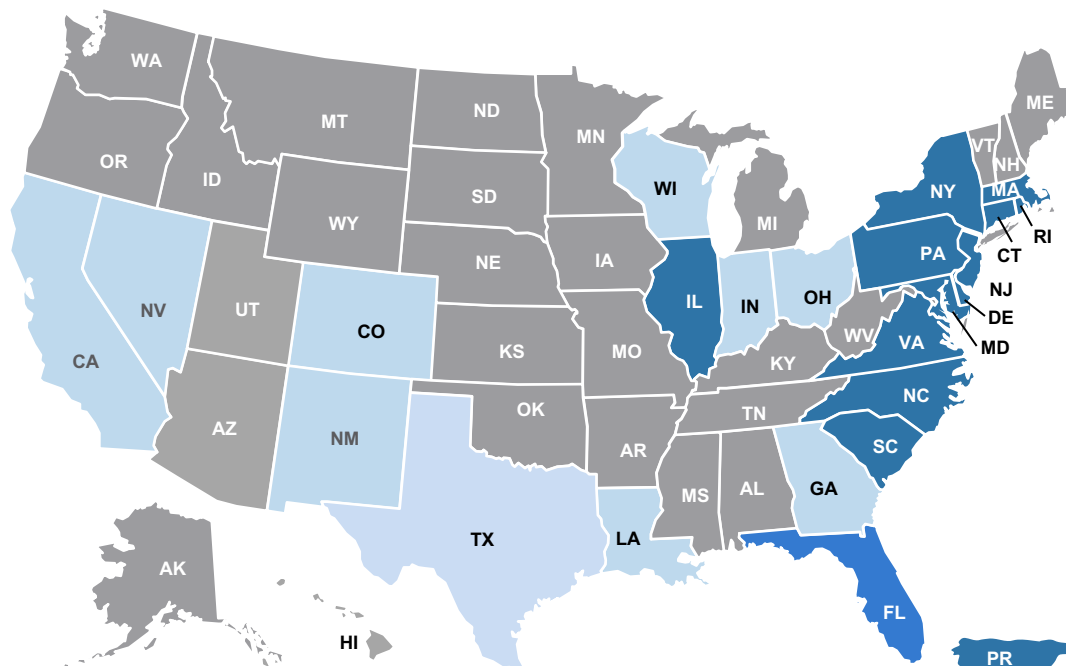
ASPIRA is embarking on a 10-year plan to significantly increase Latino postsecondary enrollment across the nation by:

- **Increasing the number of Latino students enrolling in postsecondary education** by advising and advancing access onto postsecondary institutions in both the US mainland and in Puerto Rico.
- **Expanding youth development** programs at Aspira Associates, partnering with additional states, and working closely with Latino-emerging communities.
- Expanding our youth development program into colleges and universities through the **ASPIRA College Student Support Initiative** designed to increase college student retention and graduation rates.
- In support of the “college going,” **expand parental engagement programs** throughout our organization, including financial and investment education.
- **Expanding school turnarounds as well as increasing** transformations and the restructuring of **services** in need of improvement ifor Latino communities.
- **Creating a network** of English and Spanish **GED and Adult Learning Institutes**.
- **Establishing a National Educational Management Organization** of highly-successful schools and postsecondary education facilities that meet our 90/90/90 criteria: 90% low-income, 90% Latino, and 90% proficiency in achievement.
- **Expanding the operation of postsecondary educational institutions** by opening ASPIRA City College branch campuses.

What We Plan to Do

What Are Our Aspirations and Goals?

With new initiatives, ASPIRA plans to expand its programs into 14 new states impacting One Million Latinos



ASPIRA Associates/Affiliates

Proposed Expansion States

Plan New ASPIRA Affiliates:

- Massachusetts
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Virginia
- Revamp the former CT associate
- Revamp the former FL associate

Planned Youth Development Expansion (Programs & Clubs)

- California
- Colorado
- Georgia
- Indiana
- Louisiana
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- Ohio
- Wisconsin

ASPIRA: Impacting One Million Latinos

The funding strategy



Potential Funding Sources to Implement Ahora Es! Related Projects



■ Federal Resources

- US Department of Education
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- US Department of Justice
- US Department of Labor

■ State and Local Government Funds

■ Foundations such as, but not limited to:

- Lumina Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Kresge Foundation
- Verizon Foundation
- UPS Foundation
- Greater Washington Community Foundation

■ Corporations such as but not limited to :

- Verizon
- AT&T
- Comcast
- UPS

Aspira's proposed initiatives respond to Secretary Cardona's priorities



Secretary Cardona's Priorities	Aspira's Alignment
<p>Support students through pandemic response and recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging families as core partners to educators Addressing missed instruction through intensive tutoring, afterschool and summer learning, and other evidence-based practices Increasing access to social, emotional, and mental health supports for all students Encouraging every student to participate in at least one extracurricular activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASPIRA's mentoring/tutoring and afterschool initiatives ASPIRA's community service engagement activities Aspira's Engagement and Leadership Program for Parents Creating a national network of GED training centers ASPIRA's Positive Youth Development and Student Leadership Curriculum
<p>Boldly address opportunity and achievement gaps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing every family an opportunity to start on a level playing field through free, universal, pre-K, affordable high-quality childcare Investing in recruiting and supporting the PD of a diverse educator workforce, including special education teachers, paraprofessionals, and bilingual educators. Challenge districts to fix systems that perpetuate inequities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASPIRA's Parental Engagement Program Supporting the turnaround and improvement of low-performing schools through special educational initiatives and replicable transformation models Increase pipeline via internships
<p>Make higher education more inclusive and affordable.</p>	<p>ASPIRA's Study Abroad in Puerto Rico Program and expansion of ECP initiatives</p>
<p>Ensure pathways through higher education leads to successful careers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reimagining the connection between PreK-12, higher education, and workforce Collaborating with the Department of Labor and Department of Commerce to invest in career preparation programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the ASPIRA network of GED centers (Spanish/English) and Adult Learning Institutes Aspira's Study Abroad in Puerto Rico Program among postsecondary institutions and universities

Aspira's proposed initiatives respond to U.S. HUD FY 2022-2026 Strategic Framework



US HUD Strategic Goals	Aspira's Alignment
<p>Strategic Goal 1: Support Underserved Communities.</p> <p>1A: Advance Housing Justice: Fortify support for vulnerable populations, underserved communities, and Fair Housing enforcement.</p> <p>1C: Invest in the Success of Communities: Promote equitable community development that generates wealth-building for underserved communities, particularly for communities of color.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASPIRA Associates and partner organizations expansion • Expand into HUD housing projects the ASPIRA Youth Development Program • Expand ASPIRA's Financial education programs • Establish the ASPIRA network of GED centers (Spanish/English) and Adult Learning Institutes • Expand ASPIRA's mentoring and juvenile delinquency prevention programs • Continue ASPIRA's legacy for legal justice • Provide turnaround, transformation, and restructuring services in schools in need of improvement for Latino communities.
<p>Strategic Goal 3: Promote Homeownership</p> <p>3A – Major Initiative: Expand Homeownership Opportunities: Promote financing for innovative ownership models to increase the availability of affordable housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the ASPIRA Home Ownership, financial education and investment programs
<p>Strategic Goal 4: Advance Sustainable Communities.</p> <p>4C: Integrate Health and Housing: Advance policies that recognize housing's role as essential to health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand into HUD supported communities ASPIRA's HIV, Health, and traffic safety educational programs • Continue to work on issues that promote juvenile justice and positive youth development • Strongly advocate for equitable representation and opportunity
<p>Strategic Goal 5: Strengthen HUD's Internal Capacity</p> <p>5A: Enable the HUD Workforce: Enable the HUD workforce through hiring, training, opportunities for growth, and promoting a more engaged and inclusive work environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a plan to increase the number of Latino students enrolling in postsecondary education • Establish school-to-work initiatives • Promoting equity and workforce-related opportunities