



PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FIRST 100 DAYS: NCLR PROGRESS REPORT

NCLR

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Health

The economic crisis has punctuated the need to provide access to high-quality, affordable health care to Americans as an urgent national priority. The administration's efforts to make sure all children are covered serve as vital first steps to ensuring a stronger, healthier America, but there are still millions of children without coverage. Only a reformed health care system can properly address the basic needs of American families.

- The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) praises President Obama and Congress for passing the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act of 2009, ensuring health coverage for four million more children in the U.S., including legal immigrant children, and ending a five-year waiting period for health care to which legal immigrant children and pregnant women have been subjected for more than a decade. However, despite the CHIP expansion, more than five million children remain uninsured. Congress must pass legislation this year that will provide access to comprehensive, affordable health coverage for all.

The Economy

Unemployment and foreclosure have shut out Latino and other minority communities from the American Dream in the midst of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Congress and the administration have taken steps to restore our economy, but there is still work to be done.

- NCLR applauds Congress and the administration for passing a bold economic stimulus plan that expands tax credits for families with children, provides better access to unemployment insurance, and boosts vital programs such as Medicaid and nutritional assistance.
- These steps will lead us nowhere, though, if unemployment continues to plague Americans. In March, 13.2 million workers were unemployed. For White workers, the unemployment rate was 7.9%, while it reached 11.4% for Latinos and 13.3% for Blacks. We need policies and programs that promote good jobs and fair wages to repair our broken economy.
- Along with action to remedy unemployment, NCLR calls on Congress to take stronger action against predatory lenders who have victimized Latino and other minority communities. NCLR commends Congress for its efforts to protect

Americans from predatory lending, but these hard economic times rooted in a crippling foreclosure crisis

call for bolder action. The lack of strong regulations and enforcement has broken our mortgage system and will leave 400,000 Latinos without a home this year.

- President Obama's "Making Home Affordable" plan saves homes by giving families options to refinance or modify their existing loans. NCLR is meeting with the administration to continue making improvements on the plan and commends the president for calling for a foreclosure moratorium until the plan was in place.

Immigration

Immigration reform is crucial to a full economic recovery. A path to legalization would lift wages, increase revenue, and create a level playing field. We cannot afford to operate by the status quo any longer, especially given that billions of dollars have been spent over the last ten years on failed tactics to solve the immigration crisis. An urgent response is needed to restore the rule of law, civil rights, common decency, and human dignity to our country.

- NCLR is pleased that President Obama has made immigration reform one of his top priorities for this year and looks forward to working with the administration to fulfill his pledge to address immigration.

Presidential Appointments

NCLR endorses the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda's upcoming report on the administration's cabinet appointments. Visit www.nclr.org for more information.