



## **NCLR's Principles on the Federal Budget**

The federal budget is a reflection of the highest priorities of our society. Decisions our country makes about where to invest its dollars will determine what kind of future we create for the next generation. Hispanics, who comprise a young, aspiring, and vital segment of the American people, want a budget that can help create a bright future for all Americans.

NCLR will follow the principles below when examining federal budget proposals in 2013 and beyond. They are derived from a thorough assessment of the priorities of Latino voters and their families, including their children, who will form the bedrock of the nation's future workers, taxpayers, citizens, and decision-makers. Before supporting any budget plan, NCLR will examine whether the proposals achieve the following:

- 1. Create jobs.** Job creation remains a paramount concern for Latinos who continue to face high rates of unemployment. Austerity measures that add to the ranks of the unemployed are counterproductive. Investments in infrastructure and workforce training will help the economy grow and prosper, making it easier to reduce the deficit and pay the debt.
- 2. Invest in our future.** Invest in the future by strengthening—not slashing—public funding for education, health care, and family-supporting tax credits that help our children thrive. These investments help build a strong workforce and economy in the long run.
- 3. Protect the most vulnerable and working families.** Protect vulnerable people—including low-income children, seniors, people with disabilities, and others living in poverty—from budget cuts. Working families who earn low incomes should also be protected from budget cuts. Innovations that make government programs more efficient merit attention, but any changes should not hurt vulnerable people and working families.
- 4. Share responsibility fairly for deficit reduction.** Responsibility for reducing the deficit should be widely shared, with revenue coming from those who have yet to pay their proportionate share, including the wealthy and corporations. It is unfair to deal a double-hit to today's young people in the form of a shredded future safety net, on top of cuts to programs they need today.
- 5. Foster economic mobility.** Our country has a long history of one generation investing in the next to create opportunities for economic advancement. Any changes to the tax code should be progressive and reinforce this compact by promoting asset-building among working families.