



Latino Infant Initiative Policy Agenda

The Latino* population in the United States grew 23% between 2010 and 2020, from 50.5 million to 62.1 million, overwhelmingly due to births. Unfortunately, Latinos continue to face a myriad of inequities across systems that impact their families and their children’s development.

The prenatal to three-year period (PN-3) is widely recognized as crucial for development and learning. Hence, addressing the specific needs of expecting Latino families and those who have young children under the age of three is vital to build a prosperous future for the United States.

This policy agenda was developed by the Latino Infant Initiative (LII), a collaboration between two leading organizations that serve the Latino community, UnidosUS and Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors. The overarching goal of the policy agenda is to influence federal and state policies to ensure that all Latino infants, toddlers, and their families, have equitable access to high-quality, culturally and linguistically responsive programs and services that support their development and learning.

The agenda was developed to reflect four key principles:

1. The intersectionality of issues that families experience must be acknowledged and addressed cohesively.
2. Policies should be evidence-based and informed by research.
3. Policies must be child-centered and family-focused.
4. The removal of barriers to access and enrollment is necessary to meaningfully advance equity.

* The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout our materials to refer to persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, Spanish, and other Hispanic descent; they may be of any race. Our materials may also refer to this population as “Latinx” to represent the diversity of gender identities and expressions that are present in the community.

Education

- **GOAL 1:** Improve access to high-quality, culturally and linguistically responsive early childhood education programs to serve more children, particularly dual-language learners (DLLs).
- **GOAL 2:** Retain, support, and develop Latinos in the prenatal to age three workforce to meet the need for a diverse and qualified workforce that reflects today's multicultural and multilingual child population.
- **GOAL 3:** Support family engagement that acknowledges the historical legacy of language suppression and respects home language(s).

Health

- **GOAL 4:** Improve access to health care, including mental health, for pregnant women and families of infants and toddlers.
- **GOAL 5:** Improve access to healthy and affordable food for families with young children and expecting parents.
- **GOAL 6:** Address gun violence as a civil rights and public health crisis in response to community concerns for child well-being.

Economy

- **GOAL 7:** Improve the economic well-being of pregnant women and families of infants and toddlers.

Immigration

- **GOAL 8:** Pass policies that address the needs of all children and center the dignity and humanity of immigrants and their families.



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