



Wealth Gap Report Expansion: Regional Research

The racial wealth gap in the United States is a long-standing issue, with Latino households disproportionately affected but often overlooked. As of 2019, the median wealth of Latino families is just [one-fifth of that of white families](#) – a disparity that persists due to its cascading effects on a Latino family’s ability to invest in education, start a business, buy a home, save for retirement, and transfer wealth to future generations.

The Latino Wealth Gap Report is a one-of-a-kind foundational body of work that investigates the roots and causes of the Latino wealth gap. As part of this report, UnidosUS is seeking to engage graduate-level researchers who possess relevant lived experiences or a strong connection to the research topic. We expect research to be conducted that addresses knowledge gaps in our understanding of the Latino wealth gap. Research will investigate the foundations and drivers of the Latino wealth gap in a specific U.S. city, county, state, or region. Research must build upon the Latino Wealth Gap Report and deepen the understanding of how local historical context, demographic diversity, and structural factors shape economic outcomes for Latino communities. Proposals must prioritize research that not only analyzes the Latino wealth gap but also delivers concrete, actionable policy recommendations that translate evidence into scalable interventions for policymakers, philanthropists, and communities.

Call for Papers:

UnidosUS plans to allocate a combined total of **\$25,000 across two to three** awards to graduate-level researchers or their home institutions. Applications will be evaluated based on timelines; potential impact, including the presence of actionable policy recommendations that advance real-world change on closing the Latino wealth gap; and alignment with the Latino Wealth Gap report.

Scope:

Research will illuminate the historical diversity of Latino experiences and wealth-building challenges across different areas of the United States. Papers should focus on a clearly defined geographic area and Latino population and address, in-depth, a combination of the following:

- **Population Profile:**
 - What are the Latinos in the chosen area? Consider country of origin, generational status, and migration patterns.
 - What are the key demographic and socioeconomic characteristics?
- **Wealth Gap Analysis:**
 - What is the extent of the Latino wealth gap in the chosen area? Use available data to compare Latino and non-Latino households.
 - What assets and debts are most relevant? (e.g. homeownership, retirement, accounts, business ownership)



- **Policy Recommendations:**
 - Identification of specific policy levels at local, state, or federal level (e.g. housing, tax, labor, financial regulation, education) that could be used to reduce the Latino wealth gap in the selected area.
 - Discussion of feasibility, potential impact, and equity implications of proposed policy changes, including any risks of unintended consequences for different Latino subgroups.
 - Attention to strategies that are scalable and replicable in other localities, highlighting how recommendations could inform broader systems change beyond the focal geography.
- **Contributing Factors:**
 - What local, historical, and policy factors have contributed to the observed wealth gap? Consider employment opportunities, housing access, education, discrimination, and immigration history.
 - How do regional and local economic structures impact Latino wealth building opportunities?
- **Community Voices (Optional):**
 - Incorporate interviews, focus groups, or community engagement to capture the lived experiences and perspectives.
- **Recommendations:**
 - Offer actionable recommendations for policy, philanthropy, or community action to address the wealth gap in your area.

How to Apply:

To be considered for an award, applicants should submit a statement of interest, not to exceed three pages, that includes the following materials to UnidosUS by **5 p.m. ET on May 31, 2026**:

1. **Research question and approach** that clearly describes which research topic(s) the applicant would address, the specific research questions the project will ask, and a proposed research approach to answer the research questions, including data sources and methods. We also ask for applicants to outline how the work will culminate in policy-relevant insights and actionable recommendations that drive measurable progress in addressing local drivers of the wealth gap. Researchers may submit more than one proposal, but each individual proposal should highlight a different combination of scope questions.
 - a. **Note:** Although we have identified the topic areas above as key knowledge gaps in this space, we recognize that they do not reflect all the critical research questions pertaining to the Latino wealth gap. If you have questions about the topic areas or would like to propose an additional topic, please reach out to UnidosUS at info-home@unidosus.org before submitting your statement of interest.



2. **Description of research team** that includes the CV or resumé of the principal investigator and a summary of relevant qualifications for all the researchers who will be members of the research team.
3. **Proposed timeline** that includes dates for the following benchmarks: (1) completion of data collection and analysis, (2) completion of draft paper, and (3) completion and publication of final paper. Final papers should be published by the end of 2026.
4. **A simplified budget** that shows total personnel costs, subcontracts and consultants, and other direct costs and indirect costs.

All materials should be sent as Word or PDF attachments to UnidosUS info-home@unidosus.org. Finalists will be asked to submit a detailed budget and budget narrative before final decisions are made. Awards will be announced by the end of **June 2026**.

Apply here: [Wealth Gap Report Expansion: Regional Research – Call for Papers](#)