



*An America Built to Last:*

**WHITE HOUSE HISPANIC COMMUNITY  
ACTION SUMMITS**

**INTERIM REPORT  
March 2012**



## INTRODUCTION

At more than 54 million strong, including nearly 4 million in Puerto Rico, Hispanics comprise the largest and fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population. According to the 2010 Census, the Hispanic population increased by 15.2 million between 2000 and 2010—accounting for more than half of the 27.3 million increase in our country’s total population during the same period.

Hispanics will continue to drive the growth of the labor force, given that they will account for 60 percent of the nation’s total population growth between 2005 and 2050. Similarly, Hispanic-owned businesses in America are growing at a rate that is more than twice the national average. This is reflected in both the growing number and size of Hispanic-owned businesses. During the latest five-year period for which information is available from the Census bureau, revenue of Hispanic-owned businesses increased by 55 percent to nearly [\\$350 billion](#). Further, our educational system reflects this growth in the Hispanic population, with slightly more than 1 in 5 of all pre-K through 12th grade students being Hispanic.

Given the role that Hispanics will increasingly play in our labor force, in our economy, and in our public education system it is undeniable that the success of our nation is inextricably tied to the success of the Hispanic community.

### **First-Ever White House Hispanic Policy Conference**

In recognition of the role that the Hispanic community has and will continue to play in our ability to win the future—to out-innovate, to out-educate, and to out-build the rest of the world, the White House Office of Public Engagement and the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics (White House Initiative) held the first-ever White House Hispanic Policy Conference in July 2011. More than 160 Hispanic leaders from 25 states, plus Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, joined more than 100 Obama Administration officials to discuss the President’s agenda for the nation and the Hispanic community. During this two-day conference, participants discussed and identified ways in which to advance and improve the opportunities for and outcomes of the Hispanic community with respect to a wide spectrum of diverse federal policy issues, initiatives, and programs.

### **White House Hispanic Community Action Summits**

Building on the success of the conference, Hispanic leaders from across the country who represent a myriad of interests and sectors, requested that the administration replicate the policy conference at the regional level. In response, the Administration designed daylong, regional summits—White House Hispanic Community Action Summits—which focus attention on issues affecting the daily lives of Hispanics throughout the community, with a particular emphasis on jobs and the economy, education, healthcare, and fixing our broken immigration system.

The Administration set three key goals for the summits:

1. To establish a space where community leaders can meaningfully engage and interact with key decision- and policymakers in the Obama Administration on matters involving diverse policy

areas that affect the Hispanic community and all Americans;

2. To identify policy and programmatic areas of concern, receive and respond to constructive criticism and feedback, and highlight local success stories and practices in policy areas that benefit the Hispanic community and our nation;
3. To identify and develop opportunities for Hispanic leaders and stakeholders to collaborate with the Obama Administration and other leaders from across their region to address the interests and concerns of the Hispanic community.

To accomplish these goals, the summits have two key sessions, a session that gives participants an opportunity to hear from Administration officials on work being done on critically important policy areas affecting the Hispanic community, and an innovative session based on the “Open Space” process that ensures that Hispanic leaders and Administration officials work together to set the day’s agenda by identifying issues of particular importance to Hispanics in the region. The “Open Space” process allows communities to fully explore and discuss the issues most important to them and to identify next steps for community action.

A total of eight regional summits were held in the fall of 2011:

- September 9 Orlando, FL
- October 1 Las Vegas, NV
- October 18 New York, NY
- October 27 Las Cruces, NM
- October 29 Denver, CO
- November 5 Riverside, CA
- November 12 Albuquerque, NM
- December 2 Miami, FL

As a result of the positive feedback received from Hispanic community leaders and federal officials regarding the White House Hispanic Community Action Summits, the White House Office of Public Engagement and the White House Initiative will have held additional summits by May 2012 in San Jose and Los Angeles, CA; Phoenix and Tucson, AZ; Tampa, FL; Arlington, VA; Milwaukee, WI; Durham, NC; Loraine County, OH; and San Antonio, TX.

To date, close to 3,000 Hispanic and community leaders have participated in these summits, with more than 70 federal government officials sharing their expertise on hundreds of topics of interest and concern to the Hispanic community. During the course of the 2011 summits, more than 500 topics and issues were raised and discussed during the Open Space process, some of which are detailed in this report. A selection of concrete next steps that have been taken by the federal government and summit participants in direct response to the summits are outlined below.

Among the issues Administration officials have brought to these summits are the following examples.

Cecilia Muñoz, then Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the White House, joined summit participants via Skype in Las Vegas, during which time she stressed the importance of the summit as a real opportunity for the community to engage in meaningful dialogue with senior Administration officials and identify sound recommendations on how the federal government can effectively and efficiently address the interests and needs of the Hispanic community.

In Orlando and Miami, FL, [Under Secretary for International Trade Francisco Sánchez](#) from the Department of Commerce highlighted how the *American Jobs Act*—if Congress were to act now—would, among other positive impacts, cut taxes to benefit 250,000 Hispanic-owned small businesses, prevent up to 280,000 teachers from being laid off, and cut payroll taxes for 25 million Hispanic workers.

In Riverside, CA, [Assistant Secretary of Education for Postsecondary Education Eduardo Ochoa](#) from the Department of Education explained the benefits of the new executive order President Obama signed to lower the cost of higher education. He explained how the new guidelines for the [Income Based Repayment Program](#) will provide immediate relief to borrowers already repaying their loans by consolidating their debt, reducing their interest rates and capping their loan payments, saving eligible borrowers hundreds of dollars.

[Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Opportunity John Trasviña](#) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development kicked off the Section 3 Business Registry pilot project in Miami, FL. The Section 3 program requires that recipients of certain HUD financial assistance, to the greatest extent possible, provide job-training, employment, and contract opportunities for low- or very-low income residents in connection with projects and activities in their neighborhoods. This project further reflects the Administration's efforts in aggressively addressing the housing and employment needs of diverse communities throughout the country.

## **COMMITTED TO ACTION: NEXT STEPS TAKEN BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

President Barack Obama has made it a priority for this Administration to find new ways for the government to partner with nonprofits, foundations, philanthropists, private organizations, academia, and all levels of government and diverse stakeholders to increase opportunities, improve outcomes, and address areas of mutual concern. Given the scale of the challenges facing our country, the ability of government to forge effective relationships with organizations and stakeholders across sectors has been a cornerstone of the progress this Administration has made to improve the lives of everyday Americans.

In advancing the President's priority and fulfilling the mission of Executive Order 13555, in 2009 the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics created a national network of Latino leaders and key community stakeholders by convening more than 10,000 people in more than 100 communities in 35 states, plus Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. These community conversations served to introduce the President's vision for the White House Initiative, hear key challenges and priorities on the frontlines of education with respect to the Hispanic community, and enlist individuals and organizations to partner with other stakeholders nationwide to advance the educational attainment of Hispanics. These community conversations served as the genesis for the first-ever White House Hispanic Policy Conference referenced above, which, in turn, served as the catalyst for the White House Hispanic Community Action Summits.

The measure of success for each White House Hispanic Community Action Summit is determined by the specific outcomes and tangible next steps undertaken to address the interests, recommendations, and concerns raised by Hispanic leaders and other community stakeholders during the summits. Following is a list of some of the many actions taken by participating federal officials and Hispanic leaders, arranged under the five main issue headings: 1) jobs and the economy; 2) education; 3) healthcare and nutrition; 4) fixing our broken immigration system; and 5) heritage.

### **Jobs and the Economy**

- **Growing Small and Minority-Owned Businesses:** During the Open Space discussion among small business owners in Riverside, CA, it became clear that many business owners lacked information about federal resources aimed at helping them grow. As a result, Alicia Villarreal, regional representative for U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, convened a conference, in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce to educate small business owners about available federal resources. The DOL, SBA, and MBDA together with the California Workforce Investment Board, California Center for International Trade Development, California Inland Empire District Export Council, and the Los Angeles Port, among others, participated in the one-day conference, *Your Global Edge Partners: Federal, State and Local Resources: Helping You Grow Your Business* on February 16, 2012. The conference drew over 125 small business owners and leaders of minority chambers of commerce from San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Regional representative Villarreal delivered opening remarks highlighting the President's "Blueprint for An America Built to Last," and provided related informational materials to conference attendees. Regional Representative Villarreal will be convening similar conferences in the future.

- **Supporting Small Business Development:** During a discussion with small business owners, Miguel González, assistant director for Customer Services in the SBA’s South Florida District Office, was informed that a lack of information exists with respect to federal government programs aimed at facilitating the access of capital by entrepreneurs to establish, acquire or expand businesses. González provided resources and weblinks in an effort to educate community stakeholders about resources available through the SBA, including Small Business Development Centers, the SCORE Association (a nonprofit association comprising 11,500 volunteer business counselors throughout the U.S. and its territories), and the U.S. Department of Commerce. González stressed the SBA’s commitment to educating and providing the small business community with information about financing, procurement and disaster relief, and technical assistance by way of example, through in-person presentations, the Internet, and e-mail correspondence.
- **Supporting Small Businesses:** During the Open Space discussion among Hispanic small business owners, it became apparent to Regional Administrator Shyam Reddy, of the General Services Administration (GSA), that many business owners lacked information regarding access to financing and government resources. Reddy responded to questions regarding access to capital, regulatory reform, manufacturing, government procurement, and sustainability. The information gathered at the summit by Reddy also proved key in leading to the expeditious modification of GSA’s payment systems to be in compliance with a subsequent September 14, 2011 memorandum issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at the direction of the President. The OMB memorandum requires the acceleration of payments by federal departments and agencies to small businesses for goods and services accepted, as soon as practicable, with the goal of making payments within 15 days of the receipt of an invoice. The Prompt Payment Act generally requires the federal government to pay its contractors within 30 days of receipt of an invoice, however, through the Administrations’ outreach to small business throughout the country such as the White House summit in Orlando, the President became aware of the cash-flow challenges faced by small businesses, and, as a result, the OMB issued the memorandum.
- **Investing in Latin America:** Executive Director to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Gustavo Arnavat discussed during the Miami, FL summit and at the policy conference in Washington, DC, the role of the IDB in financing economic and social development projects in Latin America (\$200 billion in the last 50 years) and the leadership role of the United States within the IDB. Arnavat also met individually and collectively with entrepreneurs and discussed their potential interest in procurement opportunities at the IDB. Moreover, Arnavat discussed the bank’s role in establishing the Latin American Idea Partnership (“*La Idea*”)—a new competition in partnership with the U.S. Department of State, Univision Networks, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and M-Via to help Hispanic entrepreneurs implement creative and new social and business ideas addressing issues of economic growth, food, security, water, and climate change in the region. These initial discussions resulted in a daylong conference in Miami attended by more than 450 community leaders and entrepreneurs. The event focused on IDB procurement opportunities in Haiti. In addition, Arnavat obtained the commitment of the IDB to hold procurement-oriented meetings in cities with large concentrations of Hispanic-owned businesses, such as Houston, TX, Los Angeles, CA, Chicago, IL, New York, NY, and Miami, FL.

- Protecting Hispanic Workers:** At the New York, NY, summit, Robert Angelo, regional representative for U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, and staff of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), met with a representative of La Esperanza Center for Integration Empowerment in Elizabeth, NJ—an organization that works with day laborers. Angelo and other U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) staff have worked closely with La Esperanza Center and recently provided a 10-hour training for their members on the recognition, avoidance, abatement, and prevention of safety and health hazards in the workplace. DOL also provided information regarding workers’ rights, employers’ responsibilities, and the process for filing a complaint. Participants received their certificates of completion on December 9, 2011, at an event held in collaboration with the Salvadoran Mobile Consulate. OSHA staff have also set up meetings to address worker safety issues with two other summit participants who represent Hispanic workers in the New York metropolitan area.
- Protecting Wages for Hispanic Workers:** At the Miami, FL, summit, regional representative Angelo also announced that the DOL’s Wage and Hour Division had secured \$682,000 in back wages for 271 local restaurant workers. In response, a labor community leader was able to connect with division staff about claims of noncompliance with minimum wage laws at a local business.
- Investing in Rural America:** At the Albuquerque and Las Cruces, NM, summits, participants raised concerns about Forest Service lands and farmer and rancher permitting issues. U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack met with Hispanic farmers and ranchers in New Mexico on December 7, 2011, and has directed the Forest Service to engage the parties on these issues. USDA staff is determining next steps to address these issues.
- Expanding Employment and Contracting Opportunities for Low-Income Workers and the Businesses That Employ Them:** HUD Equal Opportunity Specialist Isabel Marrero joined HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Opportunity John Trasviña in a discussion that focused on the development of low-income workers, primarily those who are recipients of public housing assistance. The matters discussed were particularly relevant to the [Section 3 Business Registry Pilot Program](#) launched in conjunction with the White House Hispanic Action Summit in Miami, FL. Under the pilot, HUD’s Section 3 Business Registry will offer a searchable online database that housing authorities, local government agencies, and contractors can use to identify firms that have self-certified as Section 3 businesses who hire low-income individuals. During the summit, contact information was obtained from several participants with the intent of seeking their assistance in the development and dissemination of information of upcoming Section 3 registry drives and for future engagement opportunities. HUD will also be working with the Minority Chamber of Commerce in Miami to develop a Section 3 memorandum of understanding, under which more than 300 minority businesses will be registered to support training, workforce development, and support for public housing residents.
- Building Partnerships to Support Homeless Veterans:** Miami HUD Fair Housing Director Candace Tapscott is working on developing a partnership with Project Vacant Streets, an organization dedicated to finding jobs for homeless veterans. Tapscott believes she can engage the organization's services in finding jobs for Section 3 residents.

- Diversifying the Federal Government:** During her session at the Albuquerque, NM, summit, Chief of Staff for the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Liz Montoya discussed how OPM was taking a multi-pronged approach to address the continuing low levels of Hispanic representation in the federal workforce. OPM's efforts include: 1) President Obama's executive order "[Establishing a Coordinated Government-Wide Initiative to Promote Diversity and Inclusion in the Federal Workforce.](#)" The order requires the director of OPM, the deputy director for the Office of Management and Budget, the President's Management Council, and the chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Council to establish a coordinated government wide plan to promote diversity and inclusion in the federal workforce. The plan was sent to all federal departments and agencies on November 17, 2011; 2) The establishment of OPM's Hispanic Council on Federal Employment, which advises the OPM director on best practices for recruiting, hiring, retaining and advancing Hispanics in the federal workplace; 3) The [2009 Veterans Employment Initiative](#), designed to increase employment opportunities for qualified veterans in the federal government. OPM will be partnering with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to develop ways to prepare Hispanic veterans for federal jobs; and 4) [Student Pathways Program](#), which simplifies the manner in which students and recent graduates are recruited into government. OPM is also increasing outreach efforts to underrepresented groups via Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs).
- Investing in Hispanic Youth:** At the Albuquerque, NM, summit, summer youth employment was identified as a critical element in keeping youth engaged and offering them positive mentorship and skill building opportunities. Dusti Gurule, regional representative for U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, will follow up with the Youth Build group from Santa Fe on her next visit to New Mexico in the spring of 2012 to explore additional options for partnership and collaboration with local workforce investment boards funded by the Department of Labor.
- Supporting National and Community Service Opportunities:** At the Denver, CO, summit, a representative of a health-focused council appointed by Mayor Michael Hancock inquired about ways to incorporate national service resources into the work of the council, specifically efforts by city and county health grantees to improve health outcomes for residents. Marco Davis, then director of public engagement in the Office of External Affairs for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), followed up after the summit by connecting the representative with the CNCS Colorado state office and the Colorado state service commission (Serve Colorado). Davis also provided information to access lists of current CNCS national and state commission grantees that are operating service programs in Denver and throughout Colorado.
- Supporting Youth Internships and Community Development in the Latino Community:** Following the Riverside, CA, summit, Lydia Morales, director of HUD's Department Enforcement Center, Office of the General Counsel, has addressed a number of follow-up inquiries relating to HUD contracts, sales of HUD Real Estate-Owned properties, and development of multifamily projects. She has received numerous calls from young Latinos expressing an interest in internships and upward mobility positions within HUD.
- Protecting Families from Financial Abuses, Hidden Fees and Deceptive Practices:** In Miami, FL, Zixta Martinez, Assistant Director for Community Affairs for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), discussed the manner in which the CFPB is addressing the wide range of consumer financial issues that face the Hispanic community. Participants explained their



concerns that certain financial institutions are refusing to process loan modifications, holding off on final foreclosure sales, and refusing to approve short sales. Martinez invited participants to use CFPB's consumer response centers to assist with their mortgage and credit card complaints, and further highlighted CFPB's various "Know Before You Owe" efforts as well as upcoming initiatives that will stabilize mortgage markets over the long term.

## Education

- **Preparing Hispanic Students for College and Careers:** The link between K-12 education, higher education and workforce readiness was a common theme throughout most of the summits. How these distinct industries can work together and leverage resources jointly to better prepare Latino students to obtain well-paying, sustainable jobs was a common point of discussion. Dusti Gurule, regional representative for U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, coordinated a meeting held in January 2012 among the Colorado Department of Education, Gully Stanford of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, and Ricardo Garcia of the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition to develop a plan to better prepare Colorado's future workforce. The DOL continues to strengthen its relationship with the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition, non-profit organizations, and the State of Colorado to advance this important issue. Gurule will represent the Secretary at the upcoming Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition conference in Fall 2012 where an estimated 300 parents are expected to attend.
- **Increasing Access to Technology at Hispanic Serving Institutions:** Vladimir Diaz, regional director of the USDA Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program in Florida and Puerto Rico, hosted a session during the Orlando, FL, summit to provide information and resources for university faculty, administrators, and students. Diaz met with the Chancellor of the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico's Orlando campus, during which time she expressed the need to obtain lab equipment for the civil engineering labs that did not meet the standards from the regional education accreditation agency. A week later, Diaz provided the Chancellor with access to the USDA's Federal Excess Property Program. The university ordered the lab equipment needed, including computers, printers and furniture at no cost to the university, thereby saving the university thousands of dollars and enabling them to continue serving more than 400 Hispanic students in Orlando. In addition, Diaz described USDA internship and scholarship opportunities to college students and highlighted the importance of careers in public service. Finally, as a result of the summit, three universities—Valencia College, Ana G. Mendez University System, and Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico—participated in the USDA's National Federal Grants Conference and Webcast, organized to inform university faculty and administrators about funding opportunities available at the departments of Agriculture, Education, and Housing and Urban Development, as well as NASA and the National Institute of Health.
- **Connecting Hispanic Students to Federal Internship Opportunities:** At the Miami, FL, summit, regional director Diaz informed students from Miami Dade College (MDC) about USDA internship, scholarship, and career opportunities. Furthermore, Diaz is working with College Summit, a nonprofit organization that helps high schools raise their college enrollment rates by building a college-going culture, with College Summit activities in Miami Dade County Public Schools in the 2012–13 academic year.

- **Promoting Civil Rights in Our Nation’s Schools:** During the White House summits, community leaders and stakeholders raised civil rights questions under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Gabriel Sandoval, senior counsel, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), U.S. Department of Education, provided a detailed overview to participants of the role of the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights in enforcing our nation's civil rights laws through compliance reviews, complaint resolution, policy guidance, and technical assistance; highlighted the specific laws enforced by OCR, including Title VI which protects students from being discriminated against based on race, color, and national origin; outlined the process for filing a complaint with OCR and its 12 regional offices; and underscored OCR’s policy guidance including those concerning harassment of students and enrollment procedures at primary and secondary public schools. Participants were referred to the Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) issued by OCR on October 26, 2010 concerning a recipients' obligations to protect students from [student-on-student harassment](#), in addition to the DCL issued by OCR, the Department of Education's Office of General Counsel, and the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice on May 6, 2011 regarding [schools' enrollment procedures](#). Participants were further informed about additional materials contained on OCR’s website in both English and Spanish, [www.ed.gov/ocr](http://www.ed.gov/ocr), and were encouraged to contact OCR's regional offices for any additional concerns or questions that they had regarding issues of civil rights.
- **Establishing Public-Private Partnerships to Increase the Rate of College Graduates:** After meeting with civic leaders from the education, corporate, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors at the New York, NY, summit, the Hispanic Federation applied for and received one of 12 grants from the Lumina Foundation's Latino Student Success Partnership—an initiative focused on improving the postsecondary attainment of Latino students. The Federation's Lumina-funded project CREAR Futuros or "To Create Futures" will build a “Community of Care” that will identify 1000 Hispanic students who will be mentored from the commencement to completion of their college career. This collaboration will help to advance the President's 2020 goal of making the U.S. a global leader in graduating the most college students in the world.
- **Addressing the Intersection between Educational Excellence and a Strong Economy:** As a follow-up to the Las Vegas summit, business, school, faith, nonprofit, government and other community leaders and stakeholders requested that the Department of Education hold a subsequent forum to discuss strategies and opportunities focused on improving the educational attainment of Hispanic students, and to highlight specifically how this directive can positively foster economic competitiveness. Working with members of the steering committee, the White House Initiative helped organize a town hall with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, "Education and the Economy: Investing in our Future," with the objective of addressing questions from well over 400 community members and highlighting the Administration's priorities and efforts to improve the education of students in Las Vegas and across this nation. The Secretary was joined at the town hall by Dwight Jones, Clark County Schools Superintendent, Luis Valera, chairman of the board of the Latin Chamber of Commerce, Ruben Murrillo President, Clark County Education Association, and Elaine Wynn, National Chairwoman for Communities in Schools.
- **Promoting Quality Early Learning Programs:** As a result of the Miami, FL, summit, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Acting Assistant Secretary George Sheldon, Administration for Children and Families, and Senior Policy Advisor for Early Learning Miriam Calderon held a meeting with Modesto Abety, executive director of the Children's Trust and

member of the President’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, to discuss the new rules related to the Head Start competition implemented by HHS. The meeting served to clarify how existing and new Head Start regulations can help address challenges with the administration of the Head Start program in the Miami Dade community.

- **Addressing Equity and Opportunity in the Classroom.** At the Riverside, CA, summit, the session conducted by Project PRAXIS—a non-profit organization--focused on “Defining a Quality Education in the Inland Empire,” which addressed the dropout crisis, set clear education attainment goals for the region, and engaged in cross-institutional collaboration. This session resulted in a concrete plan to establish a regionwide collaborative aimed at addressing issues of equity and opportunity for all children in the Inland Empire. Since the summit, Project PRAXIS has engaged in the following: 1) organized a community event attended by over 100 community members committed to reducing dropout and promoting educational equity across the Inland Empire; 2) launched the “Excellence Campaign” at Colton High School, which recognizes excellence within the school and community in order to transform the school’s image and existing culture; 3) launched *A 10-Point Plan to Reduce Dropout and Promote Student Engagement Across the Inland Empire and Beyond*; and 4) partnered with Colton High School’s School Safety Grant from the state of California to shape high expectations, meaningful participation, and healthy school life for all students.
- **Supporting Service-Learning for Law Students on Tenants Rights and Fair Housing Regulations:** Following the summit held in Orlando, FL, HUD Field Office Director Paul Ausley and the Dean of Barry University School of Law developed plans to jointly introduce seminars and expand clinical opportunities for students of law interested in fair housing regulations, landlord-tenant relations, real estate law, foreclosures, and related issues. Plans also include developing model curricula that can be implemented throughout Central Florida colleges and universities. Currently, another summit host, Miami Dade College, participates in HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Collegiate Partnership Program to connect law students to similar field opportunities.

## Healthcare and Nutrition

- **Educating Hispanics on Opportunities under the Affordable Care Act:** During sessions in Orlando, FL, Las Vegas, NV, Albuquerque, NM, and New York, NY, Teresa Niño, Director, Office of Public Engagement for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and her CMS colleagues were able to establish partnerships with community-based organizations and community health centers to educate their patients about the positive impact of the *Affordable Care Act* on the Hispanic community. Among other information covered, Niño and her CMS colleagues provided information on State Exchanges and Electronic Health Records, in addition to connecting them to [www.cuidadodesalud.gov](http://www.cuidadodesalud.gov), an online resource that outlines benefits, resources, and opportunities for engagement in Spanish. In Orlando in particular, the summit led to the development of a community health coalition that works closely with the CMS Regional office to develop new partnerships providing real-time access to information on local health issues, webinars, training opportunities, and collaboration with faith-based communities.

- **Affordable Care Act's Impact on Small Businesses:** CMS and the Small Business Administration facilitated a session for small business owners in Orlando to address concerns regarding the impact of the *Affordable Care Act* on health insurance costs for small businesses. CMS and the SBA committed to publishing regular healthcare updates in the local Orlando paper as the *Affordable Care Act* is implemented throughout the Florida.
- **Connecting People to Health Care Resources Under the Affordable Care Act:** In Las Vegas, NV, Director Niño provided information about programs that enable individuals with disabilities to return to work without fear of losing their Medicaid benefits via the Ticket to Work and *Work Incentives Improvement Act*. During the roundtable discussion, Niño also discussed preventative services offered to Medicare participants, new protections now afforded to children with pre-existing conditions, the expansion of health insurance to young adults under 26, as well as many of the new Long-Term Services and Supports state options will make available to better serve the elderly and disabled populations under the *Affordable Care Act*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regional director Herb Schultz connected a Riverside, CA, summit attendee who was dealing with a number of issues related to diabetes and qualifications for disability status, to regional CMS staff and California's Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board to discuss potential enrollment in the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Program (PCIP), authorized under the *Affordable Care Act*. Regional director Schultz also convened a Region IX Listening Session on November 21, 2011, to obtain input on Essential Health Benefits under the *Affordable Care Act* and is working with the Healthy San Bernardino Coalition, University of California-Riverside, and other regional health care consortia to provide workshops, information sessions, and other public engagement opportunities to highlight the benefits of the *Affordable Care Act* on the Latino community.
- **Investing in Community Health Workers, "Promotores":** Under the *Affordable Care Act*—between Medicaid Expansion and private state exchanges – it is estimated that up to 9 million Latinos will have access to health insurance. Implementation of the *Affordable Care Act* is not only the creation of new programs, new streams of funding, and cuts to inefficient activities in our healthcare system, it is also expanding access and delivery systems to ensure all Americans are educated and informed about the opportunities available to them under the *Act*, especially within the Hispanic community. Earlier this year, the Office of Minority Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, took the bold step of recognizing the great work performed by Promotores de Salud by announcing the *National Promotores de Salud/Community Health Workers (Community Health Workers) Initiative*. This initiative recognizes the important contributions of the Promotores de Salud/CHWs in reaching vulnerable, low income, and underserved members of Hispanic populations, and promotes the increased engagement of *promotores* to support health education and prevention efforts, and improve access to health care services. Educating the Hispanic community about the *Affordable Care Act* and the impact on the health of Hispanic families is an essential part of rebuilding our communities. On December 5, 2011, regional director Schultz provided keynote remarks at the *Visión y Compromiso* event in Los Angeles, CA, speaking to more than 800 community health workers (promotores) from California. California's Low-Income Health Program enables thousands of previously uninsured individuals to enroll in Medicaid-like coverage, an option made available through the *Affordable Care Act*.
- **Retirees and the Affordable Care Act:** After the Riverside, CA, summit, Regional director Herb Schultz also held a follow-up conference call to discuss the high costs of retiree health care and

the *Affordable Care Act's* program to reduce these costs with attendees who reside in San Bernardino County—a county participating in the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program. Schultz has been invited to a future meeting of retirees in San Bernardino, CA, who want to address in detail the factors driving the cost of healthcare and identify possible solutions..

- **Investigating Air Quality Issues in the Latino Community:** During the open session discussion focused on environmental issues in immigrant communities. Members of an advocacy group complained of a landfill operator in Perris, CA, that regularly incinerates waste, sending poisonous fumes into the migrant farm worker community next door. Alicia Villarreal, regional representative for U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, connected the group with the Southern California Air Quality Management District, charged with investigating such complaints, and educated the group on how to effectively file a complaint.
- **Addressing Food Insecurity and Hunger in the Latino Community:** After USDA Deputy Administrator Lisa Pino's presentations on hunger, she and the Executive Director of the Treasure Coast Food Bank in Ft. Pierce, FL, networked with other community leaders to share more information about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the food bank's emergency food assistance capacity, and other USDA nutrition assistance programs, such as the National School Lunch program, and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program. The workshop discussion on the benefits of USDA nutrition assistance programs for low-income Hispanics in light of the high obesity rates among Hispanics inspired community leaders and the Treasure Coast Food Bank to partner with USDA and Feeding America, a national food bank organization, on one of six Hispanic outreach pilot programs launched in January 2012 that will create 200 SNAP access points that will provide SNAP application assistance to eligible Hispanic families and individuals. As a pilot participant, the food bank will implement a multi-pronged outreach effort targeted at the Hispanic community that will utilize public service announcements, paid media, and literature distribution at different access points to drive clients to Orange Avenue Outreach Center, a community-based organization serving 2,000 clients monthly. At the center, individuals will receive SNAP application assistance from bilingual volunteers who will be overseen by a food bank outreach worker. The food bank will have a van available to provide transportation to and from the center. To complement these efforts, the food bank will also provide SNAP application assistance and outreach at 15 mobile pantry sites that provide food distribution and nutrition education in predominantly Latino communities. The Treasure Coast Food Bank is the only food bank providing a food distribution facility that serves more than 200 not-for-profit partners in Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties. It is also the only Feeding America and USDA approved provider in this region, and has served more than six million meals to the hungry in the last two years.
- **Connecting Faith-Communities to USDA Nutrition Assistance Programs:** During the Riverside, CA, summit's session "Hunger in the Latino Community," several leaders of faith-based organizations, including the local Catholic Archdiocese, spoke about their interest in working with the federal government to increase Hispanic participation in SNAP and school meals programs. USDA Representative Jose Torres, USDA Regional Civil Rights Director, and SNAP Regional Director Dennis Stewart are currently setting up a series of meetings in the Riverside and San Bernardino areas to connect these faith-based organizations with the California Department of Social Services at the state and county levels to facilitate collaboration. As a follow-up and under the leadership of USDA's Western Regional Director Dennis Stewart, USDA convened the first of these meetings in January 2012 with 56 community leaders from the

Riverside-San Bernardino area. During this meeting, participants were specifically tasked with identifying barriers and developing solutions to provide greater access to and participation of Hispanics in these critically important programs. At the Orlando, FL, summit, community- and faith-based organizations in attendance shared how immigration concerns often impact other areas of need for low-income Hispanics, such as housing, employment and nutrition. In response, USDA Food and Nutrition Service Deputy Administrator Lisa Pino shared information about SNAP, citizenship requirements, and how public charge concerns often inhibit eligible Hispanics from participating in SNAP although receipt of benefits will not harm a recipient's immigration status. As a result, the USDA's FNS regional office, Deputy Administrator Pino, and the USDA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships have connected community leaders to the Florida state agency for SNAP application assistance, helped them register with Florida's growing roster of 3,000 community partners, and enabled them to learn more about how to benefit from and participate in other USDA nutrition assistance programs, such as the USDA Summer Food Service Program that provides free meals to more than 2.2 million children.

### Fixing Our Broken Immigration System

- **Advocating for Comprehensive Immigration Reform:** President Obama has consistently called for Congress to work in a bipartisan manner with the Administration to pass comprehensive immigration reform, including the DREAM Act, because he believes these steps are critical to building a 21st-century immigration system that meets our nation's economic and security needs. Administration officials, including Esther Olavarria, Counselor to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Felicia Escobar, Senior Policy Advisor on Immigration in the White House Domestic Policy Council, and Associate Director Julie Chávez Rodríguez in the White House Office of Public Engagement have attended the summits to reiterate the President's commitment and detail the Administration's work on immigration. The Obama Administration has provided technical assistance to bill drafters, and has published an immigration blueprint, [\*Building a 21st-century Immigration System\*](#), that explains the economic imperative for immigration reform, outlines the President's vision for reform, and calls for a more civil and constructive debate. It also documents the progress the Administration has made in improving our immigration system, streamlining processes, and strengthening enforcement and border security. There are real economic benefits to comprehensive immigration reform. For example, Comprehensive Immigration Reform would boost GDP by more than 1 percentage point and according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the DREAM Act as approved in the House in December 2010 would have cut the deficit by \$2.2 billion over the next 10 years.
- **Improving Immigration Enforcement:** Participants at every summit have voiced many concerns about immigration enforcement and expressed frustration that the Administration has not done enough to enact comprehensive immigration reform. Summit attendees shared personal stories and experiences with Administration officials. Throughout the summits, it has become apparent that the Administration's efforts to enact immigration reform legislation are not well known and that communities have concerns over the consistency of the implementation of policy changes. Administration officials provided more information on the President's new policies to enforce immigration laws in a smarter and more effective way, prioritizing the removal of people who have been convicted of crimes as its highest priority over individuals with long-standing community ties or who were brought to the U.S. as children. As a result of the feedback from these summits and other community engagement efforts through the Department of Homeland

Security, the following trainings and meetings have been facilitated and/or are scheduled to continue to educate the community and Administration officials about the new reforms in place and to ensure consistent implementation:

- All Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers, lawyers, and agents are undergoing scenario-based training on the use of prosecutorial discretion (PD) to ensure its consistent use of PD in communities across the country.
  - In November, a state assembly member from Las Vegas, NV, who attended the summit, facilitated a community dialogue with over 100 community leaders, local law enforcement, and DHS officials as a direct follow-up to concerns raised at the Summit.
  - In early December, Senior DHS officials met with immigration lawyers and advocates that attended the Denver Summit to discuss the pilot case-by-case review process of pending immigration cases in the court system.
  - In February 2012, DHS Ombudsman January Contreras facilitated follow-up roundtable discussions with Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials, immigration advocates, lawyers, and community leaders who attended Summits in Riverside, CA, and Albuquerque, NM, to continue to improve communication and collaboration between immigration officials and the communities in which they serve.
- **Creating a More Humane Detention System:** Summit attendees in Las Cruces, NM, raised concerns about the immigration detention system and provided recommendations on reforms to create a more humane detention system. As a result of the summit session, participants were connected with the immigration policy advisor at the Domestic Policy Council to discuss DHS' effort to implement critical reforms to the detention system that enhance security and efficiency while prioritizing the health and safety of detainees. A concrete example of current reforms administered is the creation of the Online Detainee Locator System, a public, internet-based tool that assists family members, attorneys, and other interested parties in locating individuals in DHS custody, and the February 2012 release of revised [national detention standards](#), comprehensive standards drafted in collaboration with stakeholders that regulate the safety and conditions of detainees. Additional reform recommendations were also shared with DPC and White House representatives and are currently under review to determine next steps in improving the system.
  - **Coalition Building to Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform:** Several participants who attended the Orlando, FL, Summit decided to form their own community organization to provide accurate information and assistance on immigration issues to Hispanics living in Central Florida. Administration officials, including Gabriel Sandoval, senior counsel, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, have had subsequent conversations with these leaders to answer their questions and provide them with guidance.

### Honoring Latino Heritage

- **Recognizing Contributions of Latinos in America:** Francisco Carrillo, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), held an open space discussion at the Riverside, CA, summit regarding Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's American Latino Heritage Initiative. A discussion was held on how to

better recognize, celebrate and preserve American Latino heritage. The DOI will follow up with school districts that lack arts programs, connect with Latino museums and exhibits to develop a national network, and develop mobile museums to share the American Latino experience and contributions with other communities and cultures. Secretary Salazar also is working closely with Congressional leaders to pass legislation that would authorize the Smithsonian American Latino Museum.

## **“WE CAN’T WAIT” AND OTHER ACTIONS TAKEN TO SUPPORT THE MIDDLE CLASS**

**A partial list of “We Can’t Wait” and other actions President Obama has taken to support middle class Americans are highlighted below and were announced concurrently with the White House Hispanic Community Action Summits.**

1. **Housing Refinancing**: On October 24, in Las Vegas, the President announced steps to help responsible borrowers with little or no equity in their homes take advantage of today’s low mortgage rates.
2. **Supporting our Veterans**: The President has taken a series of Executive and other actions to support and help create jobs for veterans with the overall objective of putting Americans back to work and strengthening the economy:
  - a. **Increasing Hiring of Veterans in Healthcare-related Fields**: On October 25, the President challenged Community Health Centers to hire 8,000 veterans—approximately one veteran per health center sit—over the next three years and the Health Resources and Services Administration pledged to open up career paths beyond nursing and expand opportunities for veterans to become physician assistants;
  - b. **Creating Two New Veterans’ Tax Credits**: In November 2011, the President signed into law two new tax credits for hiring veterans, both of which were included as part of the American Jobs Act. The Returning Heroes Tax Credit provides an incentive of up to \$5,600 for firms to hire unemployed veterans and the Wounded Warrior Tax Credit doubled the existing tax credit for long-term unemployed veterans with service-connected disabilities to \$9,600;
  - c. **Developing Online Tools to Boost Veteran Employment**: The Administration launched the [Veterans Jobs Bank](#), an easy to use tool to help veterans find job postings from companies looking to hire them. It already searches over one million job postings. Additionally, the Department launched [My Next Move for Veterans](#), a new online resource that allows veterans to enter their military occupation code and discover civilian occupations for which they are well qualified;
  - d. **Challenging the Private Sector to Hire or Train 100,000 Veterans and their Spouses by 2013**: Since the President issued his challenge to the private sector in August 2011, more than 40,000 veterans and their spouses have been hired and, through the leadership of First Lady Michelle Obama, Dr. Jill Biden, and their Joining Forces Initiative, 1,500 companies have committed to hire or train 135,000 veterans and their spouses by the end of 2013;



- e. **Increasing Access to Intensive Employment Services**: Post-9/11 veterans are now able to download the Veteran Gold Card, which entitles them to enhanced reemployment services including six months of personalized case management, assessments, and counseling at an estimated 3,000 One-Stop Career Centers located across the country. This will help serve the 250,000 unemployed Post-9/11 veterans.
3. **Creating New Opportunities for Improving College Affordability**: On October 26, in Denver, the President announced that we would allow certain borrowers to cap their student loan payments at 10% of discretionary income beginning next year. He also announced efforts to encourage borrowers to consolidate their direct loans with old Federal Family Education Loans, as well as a model financial aid disclosure form to help students better understand and easily compare aid packages offered by different institutions.
4. **Helping Small Businesses Create Jobs**: On October 28, we issued two Presidential Memoranda to help small businesses create jobs. One memorandum directed agencies to take steps to speed up the transfer of Federal research from the laboratory to the marketplace. The other directed the creation of BusinessUSA, an online platform where businesses that want to begin or increase exporting can access information about available Federal programs. This was announced via a press conference call with Administrator Mills and Acting Deputy Secretary of Commerce Blank.
5. **Reforming Head Start**: On November 8, outside of Philadelphia, the President announced important steps to improve the quality of services and accountability at Head Start centers across the country.
6. **Launching Small Business Innovation Fund**: On December 8, in conjunction with the first board meeting of the Startup America Partnership, Administrator Mills announced that SBA is moving forward with launching a \$1 billion Early Stage Innovation Fund that will provide matching capital to small business investment companies. We also announced commitments from more than 50 private-sector partners to deliver over \$1 billion in value to 100,000 startups over the next three years.
7. **Summer Jobs for Youth**: On January 5, the Administration announced *Summer Jobs+*, a new call to action for businesses, non-profits, and government to work together to provide pathways to employment for low-income and disconnected youth in the summer of 2012. We announced commitments of nearly 180,000 employment opportunities for low-income youth in the summer of 2012, and a goal of reaching 250,000 employment opportunities by the start of summer, at least 100,000 of which will be placements in paid jobs and internships.

## KEY TOPICS RAISED DURING OPEN SPACE DISCUSSIONS

More than 500 topics were addressed during the White House Hispanic Community Action Summits. Following is a list of the issues raised and addressed by participants, arranged under the five main issue headings: 1) jobs and the economy; 2) education; 3) healthcare; 4) fixing our broken immigration system; and 5) other.

This information was developed by the participants themselves as part of the Open Space process and has been reprinted verbatim from the session reports. Accordingly, this report is meant only to provide information about the topics raised and discussed by participants at the White House Hispanic Community Action Summits. The content of this section does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the White House, the U.S. Department of Education, or the federal government. The inclusion of such information in this report is for the reader's convenience and is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse any views expressed for any organizations, products, programs, or services.

### Jobs and the Economy

- Focusing on job creation, small business, and economic development in Latin America will positively impact national economy; efforts must continue to bring back manufacturing jobs to the United States—outsourcing technology and manufacturing jobs to other countries can no longer take place; anti-immigrant state legislation has created more economic instability than one would find in Latin America; the country needs to focus on education and training goals that will strengthen our workforce and determine what type of training our youth need for employment in the future; our youth youths should be prepared for different opportunities in the marketplace through apprenticeships, internships and mentorships in different fields; training programs should be matched with areas of growth; the U.S. Department of Labor should be trained in career-field awareness and provide information to the Hispanic community regarding the same.
- Partnering for equal access in employment, not just accessibility for individuals with disabilities; challenges are encountered to get jobs at appropriate education levels as a result of stereotypes; transportation should be made more available—it remains challenging to obtain a higher education because of lack of transportation.
- Reviewing HUD's Section 3 pilot program and how it addresses the needs of businesses and the unemployed.
- Supporting women at the forefront of economic development—a growing need to invest in opportunities to support women entrepreneurs.
- Identifying strategies for developing social and economic ties with Puerto Rico; the Small Business Administration has tools and programs for small businesses to succeed, create jobs, and drive local and national economic growth; the following were identified as initiatives to promote economic ties with Puerto Rico—1) the creation of a “Made in Puerto Rico” brand for local farmers to distinguish and promote their products; 2) the establishment of a distribution

center in the United States with the help of government; 3) the need for a new generation of educated farmers to sell their products on the market; 4) the coordination of trade missions, specifically to Central and South American markets; 5) the availability of the export-import program to ensure payment of goods sold abroad; and 6) the availability of a guest worker program for Puerto Rican farmers to recruit agricultural workers from other countries.

## Education

- Garnering support for college completion through community outreach and education fairs; and establish relationships and enlisting support from elected officials, e.g., outreach to parents, workshops on financial aid, the hosting of Hispanic education advocacy week on college and university campuses.
- Fostering equity in education by addressing the failure of schools to involve Limited English Proficient (LEP) parents in education programs, improving nutrition on school campuses, and holding community meetings to address socioeconomic, academic, and civil and human rights issues affecting the Hispanic community.
- Improving the quality of education for Hispanic students by addressing the dropout rate, advocating for universal preschool, youth involvement, and parental engagement and empowerment; reevaluating high schools serving Hispanics, e.g., trades and apprenticeships; promoting after school programs; exposing Hispanic students to college life.
- Identifying higher education practices and policies prohibiting or obstructing degree completion and academic success of Hispanic college students; there is a need for better services to assist transfers from community colleges to four-year institutions; pipelines must be developed to assist with the effective transfer or employment of students; goal should be to create one place to help Hispanic families and students identify and secure resources for education attainment; strong relationships should be established to ensure that high school students know the academic courses they should take to meet college entrance requirements and do well in college; more informed guidance counselors are required to assist Hispanic students.
- Enforcing civil rights in our public schools to ensure that students are not discriminated against because of race, color or national origin under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is important. There should be increased focus on discrimination against English Learner students and students who are immigrants or whose parents are immigrants.
- Building a pipeline of an educated and skilled community in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to strengthen our economic vitality and increase quality of life—students of color need STEM role models; a lack of Latino/a STEM college professors exists; a need exists to better integrate STEM into core math and science courses to expose more students; lack of transportation for internships also serves as a barrier.
- Improving education of English Learner students: early childhood students have little or no exposure to bilingual pre-K public school programs; a shortage of qualified teachers exists and additional problems can be found within the pipeline, e.g., content area bilingual teachers and early childhood education teachers; a lack of tracking exists with respect to the allocation of

general operating funds generated by EL students; transparency and accountability must exist regarding how exactly state and federal funds are used to actually affect EL students positively.

- Addressing the critical need for vocational and technical education and training; under the German model, unemployed Germans are required to retrain—a condition that must be met before receiving unemployment benefits; not all high school students are college bound, and vocational and technical education training can provide opportunities.
- Improving the education attainment of the Hispanic community requires a focus on early childhood learning, parental engagement, access to higher education, cross-collaborative partnerships, and civil rights enforcement, e.g., bullying and harassment in the classroom; critical to speak about the importance of attending college to children at an early age; parents, schools, and other community stakeholders must create a safe and engaging environment at the school site and provide information to Limited English Proficient parents that is understandable—one school, for example, established a relationship with a software company that allows teachers and Limited English Proficient parents to communicate through a system translation service; we need ensure that STEM courses are not taught by out-of-field teachers in low-income schools and that equity exists among all schools.
- Promoting participation in policy and providing the tools by schools through which students, parents and educators can further organize and mobilize to be informed and to better participate in education policymaking—this objective can be achieved by providing such community organizing curriculum for students and parents as provided by schools and universities; one of the greatest challenges to education policymaking, both at the state and federal policy levels, is that those influenced by education policy, i.e., students, parents and educators, are rarely involved in policymaking—often the economics of education, which may be largely informed by ideology, informs which types of policies are leveraged over others; challenges continue with regard to transparency of education data, especially in higher education, such as funding based on attendance, which may support dropout variables—how can this process be more open?

## Health Care

- Building capacity to address the mental health needs of the Hispanic community; the elderly and returning veterans, including undocumented immigrants who enlist to secure immigration papers, are encountering mental health issues; a national public education campaign should be established to counter the stigmatization often felt by Hispanics with mental or other health issues; poorly addressed mental health issues are contributing to the stigmatization of Latinos.
- Ensuring that hospitals and other medical facilities communicate with Limited English patients in a language that they understand is critically important for the health of the community; legislation should be passed to ensure the presence of qualified interpreters at medical facilities to prevent seclusion, restraint, and medication directly resulting from lack of language comprehension.
- Educating the community about USDA programs, e.g., Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); the USDA Food and Nutrition Service is working with USDA's Center for Faith

Based and Neighborhood partnerships on a collaborative Hispanic outreach strategy, known as *La Mesa Completa*, and what an important role faith-based and neighborhood community organizations play in amplifying access to underserved communities; the USDA Food and Nutrition Service Web site has information on all 15 assistance programs, including the SNAP program: [www.fns.usda.gov/fns](http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns).

### Fixing Our Broken Immigration System

- Our broken immigration system must address three issues: 1) procedures while an undocumented immigrant is in custody; 2) unfair current and proposed laws; and 3) unfair deportations and separation of families:
  - With respect to in-custody procedures, the following issues are of concern: abuse of authority by immigration officials, denial of basic rights, (i.e., right to an attorney, explanation of actions taken), lack of information for affected families about the status of detained family members, lack of community informative sessions and law updates in a language understood by the community, racial profiling, and lack of proper training of immigration officials (i.e., conducting case reviews, adjudicating final decisions, having adequate review and taking appropriate actions toward those who violate rules, regulations, and authority, minimizing the violation of civil rights);
  - Concerning unfair current and proposed state laws, the following issues are of concern: the inquisition of the legal status of Hispanic children in school; teachers having the unnecessary burden of determining the legal status of students and acting as federal immigration agents; the lack of trust of the judicial system and of attorneys practicing immigration law; and the lack of accessible information to the Hispanic community regarding immigration-related matters; and
  - Regarding deportations and the separation of families, the following issues are of concern: many instances exist where the deportations of minor children can be prevented; lack of procedures in determining who is eligible or not eligible for deportation; and a lack of resources available to United States citizens' families currently facing deportation proceedings.
- The *DREAM Act*: Creating opportunities for DREAMers who graduate from professional schools to obtain work visas. Without financial aid, many undocumented students will be prevented from obtaining an education and be forced to drop out; the network and resources for undocumented students are small, and they are, as a result, shut out of the school system; what should be done regarding DREAMers who already have their degrees? All students should be expected to go to college and be reminded that they are smart and that the community is counting on them; bigger issues should be addressed because undocumented immigrants pay taxes and do not receive anything in return.
- The lack of national immigration reform leads to states attempting to deal with immigration on their own, often with negative consequences, e.g., anti-immigrant sentiments.

## Other

- Focusing on increasing and enhancing community participation in policymaking; students, parents, and educators need to increasingly be involved in policy development; efforts should be supported for greater community-based organizing, especially in enhancing mentorship programs to connect with students and families—one approach may include pipeline-type mentoring, e.g., college students mentoring high school students who are mentoring middle and elementary students; media across the spectrum should be involved to a greater extent in promoting community and education-based partnerships to enhance outreach, communication, and participation.
- Stressing importance of civic engagement and volunteerism—elements and factors include: building social capital by increasing volunteerism; providing incentives to agencies focusing on volunteerism; recruiting, retaining and recognizing volunteers; educating the community on volunteerism; educating children about the spirit of giving, sharing and volunteering; using technology as a means of communication to get younger people involved; educating the elderly by involving youths; securing government support to promote volunteerism; increasing parental involvement—multigenerational and family programs; and serving as a clearinghouse for available programs. Challenges include: economic crisis; not enough culturally appropriate programs available; transportation barriers, particularly in rural areas; lack of companionship for the elderly; lack of informational materials in languages that can be understood by Limited English Proficient community members; and people living in poverty—focus on basic needs such as food, shelter and jobs.

## PARTICIPATING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

The success of the White House Hispanic Community Action Summits is due, in part, to the participation of federal government officials who are committed to public service. The following individuals, listed in alphabetical order with their e-mail addresses, have participated in one or more of the summits:

- **Mayra Alvarez**, Director of Public Health and Policy, Office of Health Reform, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Mayra.Alvarez@hhs.gov
- **Robert Apodaca**, Assistant Chief of the West, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Robert.Apodaca@wdc.usda.gov
- **Robert Asaro-Angelo**, Regional Representative for Secretary Hilda Solis, U.S. Department of Labor, Angelo.Robert.A@dol.gov
- **Deanna Archuleta**, Senior Advisor to U.S. Secretary Ken Salazar, U.S. Department of the Interior, Deanna\_Archuletea@ios.doi.gov
- **Gustavo Arnavat**, U.S. Executive Director, Inter-American Development Bank, garnavat@iadb.org
- **Paul C. Ausley**, Field Office Director (Orlando, FL), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Paul.C.Ausley@hud.gov
- **Vergie Bain**, Compliance Assistance Specialist, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)(Plantation, FL), U.S. Department of Labor, Bain.Vergie@dol.gov
- **Paul Berumen**, Senior Advisor to the Chief of Staff, Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Paul.Berumen@dhs.gov
- **Terry Brunner**, New Mexico State Director, Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Terry.Brunner@nm.usda.gov
- **Miriam Calderon**, Senior Policy Advisor for Early Learning, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Miriam.Calderon@acf.hhs.gov
- **Michael Camuñez**, Assistant Secretary for Market Access and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce, Michael.Camunez@trade.gov
- **Francisco Carrillo**, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, Francisco\_Carrillo@ios.doi.gov
- **Julie Chávez Rodriguez**, Associate Director, Office of Public Engagement, The White House, Julie\_C\_Rodriguez@who.eop.gov
- **Gregory M. Darnieder**, Special Assistant and Advisor to the Secretary on the Secretary's Initiative on College Access, U.S. Department of Education, Greg.Darnieder@ed.gov
- **Rachel David**, Benefits Advisor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, David.Rachel@dol.gov
- **Marco Davis**, Deputy Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics/(former) Director of Public Engagement, Office of External Affairs, Corporation for National and Community Service, marco.davis@ed.gov
- **Vladimir Diaz**, Regional Director (Florida and Puerto Rico), Hispanic Serving Institutions National Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Vladimir.Diaz@osec.usda.gov
- **Felicia Escobar**, Senior Policy Advisor, Domestic Policy Council, The White House, Felicia\_Escobar@who.eop.gov
- **Gilbert Feliciano**, Investigator, Office of the Whistleblower Protection Program, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Feliciano.Gilbert@dol.gov

- **Eduardo Fontaine**, District Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, U.S. Department of Labor, Fonatine.Eduardo@dol.gov
- **Darlene Fossum**, Area Director, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Fossum.Darlene@dol.gov
- **Yolanda Garcia Olivarez**, Regional Administrator (Region VI), U.S. Small Business Administration, Yolanda.Olivarez@sba.gov
- **Will Garnitz**, District Director, Wage and Hour Division (Miami, FL), U.S. Department of Labor, Garnitz.Will@dol.gov
- **Miguel E. González**, Assistant Director for Customer Services, South Florida District Office, U.S. Small Business Administration, Miguel.Gonzalez@sba.gov
- **Dusti Gurule**, Regional Representative for Secretary Hilda Solis, U.S. Department of Labor, Gurule.Dusti@dol.gov
- **Vicki Johnson**, Enforcement Branch Chief, Fair Housing Office, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Vick.D.Johnson@hud.gov
- **Michelle Khalife**, Benefits Advisor, Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)(New York, NY), U.S. Department of Labor, Khalife.Michelle@dol.gov
- **Robert “Bob” Kulick**, Regional Administrator (Region II), Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Kulick.Robert@dol.gov
- **Aaron Levine**, Equal Opportunity Specialist, Fair Housing Office, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Aaron.Levine@hud.gov
- **Kenneth J. Lobene**, Director, Las Vegas Field Office, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Kenneth.J.LoBene@hud.gov
- **Betsy Markey**, Assistant Secretary for Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Betsy.Markey@hq.dhs.gov
- **Isabel Marrero**, Equal Opportunity Specialist, Fair Housing Office (Miami, FL), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Isabel.Marrero@hud.gov
- **Zixta Martinez**, Director for Community Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Zixta.Martinez@cfpb.gov
- **Joe McNearney**, Special Assistant for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Joe.McNearney@hhs.gov
- **Luis Miranda**, Director of Hispanic Media, The White House
- **Elizabeth Montoya**, Chief of Staff and Director of External Affairs, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Liz.Montoya@opm.gov
- **Lydia Morales**, Director, Department Enforcement Center, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- **Abiezer Moyer**, Supervisory Benefits Advisor, Employment Benefits Security Administration, Moyer.Abiezer@dol.gov
- **Cecilia Muñoz**, the President’s Domestic Policy Advisor and the Director of the Domestic Policy Council/(former) Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, The White House
- **Teresa Niño**, Director, Office of Public Engagement for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Teresa.Nino@cms.hhs.gov
- **Eduardo Ochoa**, Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, Eduardo.Ochoa@ed.gov
- **Esther Olavarria**, Counselor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Esther.Olavarria@hq.dhs.gov



- **Cindy R. Padilla**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary on Aging, Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Cindy.Padilla@AoA.hhs.gov](mailto:Cindy.Padilla@AoA.hhs.gov)
- **Lisa Pino**, Deputy Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Lisa.Pino@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Lisa.Pino@fns.usda.gov)
- **William A. Ramos**, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce, [Wramos@doc.gov](mailto:Wramos@doc.gov)
- **Shyam K. Reddy**, Regional Administrator (Southeast Belt Region), General Services Administration, [Shyam.Reddy@gsa.gov](mailto:Shyam.Reddy@gsa.gov)
- **José A. Rico**, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, [Jose.Rico@ed.gov](mailto:Jose.Rico@ed.gov)
- **Wendolyn Rivera**, Equal Opportunity Specialist, Fair Housing Office, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, [Wendolyn.Rivera@hud.gov](mailto:Wendolyn.Rivera@hud.gov)
- **Dan Restrepo**, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs, National Security Council, The White House, [Drestrepo@nsc.eop.gov](mailto:Drestrepo@nsc.eop.gov)
- **Rosie Rios**, Treasurer of the United States, [Rosie.Rios@treasury.gov](mailto:Rosie.Rios@treasury.gov)
- **Gina Rodriguez**, Special Assistant, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Gina.Rodriguez@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gina.Rodriguez@cms.hhs.gov)
- **Roberto J. Rodriguez**, Special Assistant to the President for Education, Domestic Policy Council, The White House, [rrodriguez@who.eop.gov](mailto:rrodriguez@who.eop.gov)
- **Marguerite Salazar**, Regional Director (Region VIII), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Marguerite.Salazar@hhs.gov](mailto:Marguerite.Salazar@hhs.gov)
- **Francisco Sánchez**, Under Secretary for Commerce and International Trade, U.S. Department of Commerce, [Francisco.Sanchez@trade.gov](mailto:Francisco.Sanchez@trade.gov)
- **Yvette Sanchez Fuentes**, Director of Head Start, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Yvette.Sanchezfuentes@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Yvette.Sanchezfuentes@acf.hhs.gov)
- **Gabriel Sandoval**, Senior Advisor, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics/Senior Counsel, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, [Gabriel.Sandoval@ed.gov](mailto:Gabriel.Sandoval@ed.gov)
- **Gloria Shanahan**, Public Affairs Specialist, Field Office, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, [Gloria.Shanahan@hud.gov](mailto:Gloria.Shanahan@hud.gov)
- **Jorge Silva-Puras**, Regional Administrator (Region II), U.S. Small Business Administration, [Jorge.Silva@sba.gov](mailto:Jorge.Silva@sba.gov)
- **Herb K. Schultz**, Regional Director (Region IX), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Herb.Schultz@hhs.gov](mailto:Herb.Schultz@hhs.gov)
- **Juan Sepúlveda**, (former) Executive Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics
- **Candace Tapscott**, Fair Housing Director, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, [Candace.M.Tapscott@hud.gov](mailto:Candace.M.Tapscott@hud.gov)
- **Shaharazade Thompkins-Lewis**, Community Outreach and Resource Planning Specialist, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, [Thompkins-Lewis.Shaharazade@dol.gov](mailto:Thompkins-Lewis.Shaharazade@dol.gov)
- **Joe Torres**, Regional Civil Rights Director, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Joe.Torres@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Joe.Torres@fns.usda.gov)
- **John Trasviña**, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Opportunity, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, [John.D.Trasvina@hud.gov](mailto:John.D.Trasvina@hud.gov)
- **Tammy Trevino**, Administrator for Housing and Community Facilities Programs, Rural Development Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [tammy.trevino@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:tammy.trevino@wdc.usda.gov)
- **Joanne Urrutia**, Deputy Director, Office of English Language Acquisition, U.S. Department of

Education, Joanne.Urrutia@ed.gov

- **Stephanie Valencia**, Deputy Director, Office of Public Engagement, The White House, Stephanie\_M.\_Valencia@who.eop.gov
- **Jose Luis Velasco**, Latino/Hispanic Outreach Specialist, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Jose.Velasco@cms.hhs.gov
- **Nury Vergara**, Area Director, Wage and Hour Division (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), U.S. Department of Labor, Vergara.Nury@dol.gov
- **Alicia Villarreal**, Regional Representative for Secretary Hilda Solis, U.S. Department of Labor, Villarreal.Alicia@dol.gov

**COMMITTED TO ACTION FOR AN AMERICA BUILT TO LAST:** The following are helpful links on the Obama Administration's programs and policies impacting the Latino community

**Administration Accomplishments in the Latino Community:**

- [Winning the Future: The President's Agenda and the Hispanic Community](#)
- Winning the Future: The President's Agenda and the Hispanic Community [en Español](#)
- [White House Webpage for Hispanics](#)

**Jobs and the Economy:**

- President Obama's State of the Union 2012: [Blueprint for An America Built to Last](#) (English); [Plan Especifico para una América Construida Para Perdurar](#) (Spanish)
- [American Jobs Act and the Latino Community](#)
- Latinos in business; Government Resources for Hispanic Entrepreneurs [community.sba.gov/community/blogs/community-blogs/small-business-matters/latinos-business-government-resources-hispanic-entrepreneurs-0](http://community.sba.gov/community/blogs/community-blogs/small-business-matters/latinos-business-government-resources-hispanic-entrepreneurs-0)
- Five Hispanic-Owned Small Businesses to be Recognized During National Small Business Week [www.sba.gov/content/five-hispanic-owned-small-businesses-be-recognized-during-national-small-business-week](http://www.sba.gov/content/five-hispanic-owned-small-businesses-be-recognized-during-national-small-business-week)
- SBA: Government Contracting Classroom – [New On-line Training Resource](#)
- Payroll Tax Benefits: [www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/09/14/background-presidents-remarks-congressional-hispanic-caucus-institutes-3](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/09/14/background-presidents-remarks-congressional-hispanic-caucus-institutes-3)
- Latinos in the Workforce Report: [www.dol.gov/sec/media/reports/HispanicLaborForce/HispanicLaborForce.pdf](http://www.dol.gov/sec/media/reports/HispanicLaborForce/HispanicLaborForce.pdf)

**Education:**

- Winning the Future – Improving Education for the Latino Community: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss\\_viewer/WinningTheFutureImprovingLatinoEducation.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/WinningTheFutureImprovingLatinoEducation.pdf)
- President Obama's Blueprint for [Keeping College Affordable](#)
- Know Your Rights, [Office for Civil Rights \(OCR\)](#), U.S. Department of Education
- Recursos de la [Oficina Para Derechos Civiles](#), Departamento de Educacion de los Estados Unidos, [en Español](#)
- Office of Civil Rights Resources in [Other Languages](#)
- National Center for Education Statistics: [Fast Facts Generally](#)/ Fast Facts on Dropout rates: [nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=16](http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=16)

**Health/Health Care:**

- Learn more about health care at [Healthcare.gov](http://Healthcare.gov)
- Aprenda mas sobre el cuidado de salud en [Cuidadodesalud.gov](http://Cuidadodesalud.gov)
- My Plate: Healthy Eating/Nutrition Guidelines: [www.myplate.gov](http://www.myplate.gov)
- Mi Plato: <http://www.choosemyplate.gov/en-espanol.html>

**Fixing Our Broken Immigration System:**

- President’s Blueprint on Immigration Reform: [Building a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Immigration System](http://Building%20a%2021st%20Century%20Immigration%20System)
- White House Website on Immigration: [www.whitehouse.gov/immigration](http://www.whitehouse.gov/immigration)
- USCIS [Citizenship Resource Center](http://Citizenship%20Resource%20Center)
- Notario Fraud: [www.uscis.gov/avoidscams](http://www.uscis.gov/avoidscams)
- Case Status Update: <https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/Dashboard.do>
- ICE Online Detainee Locator: <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/homePage.do>
- Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman: [Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman](http://Citizenship%20and%20Immigration%20Services%20Ombudsman)
- How to File a [Civil Rights Complaint](http://Civil%20Rights%20Complaint) with DHS

**Housing and Community Development:**

- [Strong Cities, Strong Communities](http://Strong%20Cities,%20Strong%20Communities) (SC2)
- Strong Cities, Strong Communities [Fellowship](http://Fellowship)
- [Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grants](http://Neighborhood%20Stabilization%20Program%20Grants)
- [Making Homeownership Affordable](http://Making%20Homeownership%20Affordable)
- [Loan Scam](http://Loan%20Scam): “Know it. Avoid it. Report it”