



An America Built to Last:

**WHITE HOUSE HISPANIC COMMUNITY
ACTION SUMMITS**

FINAL REPORT
March 2013



INTRODUCTION

At more than 54 million strong, including nearly 4 million in Puerto Rico, Hispanics (hereafter, “Hispanics” or “Latinos”) 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 education 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. The first session gives participants an opportunity to hear from Administration officials about the work being done in critical policy areas affecting the Hispanic community; the second is an innovative session based on the “Open Space” process that ensures 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 21 regional summits have been held since September 2011 as highlighted below:

September 9	Orlando, FL	January 30	Tucson, AZ
October 1	Las Vegas, NV	February 3	Tampa, FL
October 18	New York, NY	February 18	Lorain, OH
October 27	Las Cruces, NM	March 9	San Antonio, TX
October 29	Denver, CO	March 17	Durham, NC
November 5	Riverside, CA	March 24	Milwaukee, WI
November 12	Albuquerque, NM	April 5	Los Angeles, CA
December 2	Miami, FL	June 2	Philadelphia, PA
January 21	San Jose, CA	June 9	Arlington, VA
January 28	Phoenix, AZ	June 16	Silver Spring, MD
		July 26	Livermore, CA

To date, over 10,000 Hispanic and other community leaders have participated in these summits, with more than 200 federal government officials sharing their expertise on hundreds of topics of interest and concern to the Hispanic community. During the course of the summits, more than 600 topics and issues have been raised and discussed during the “Open Space” process, some of which are detailed in this report. The following examples are among the many important issues addressed by Administration officials at the regional summits.

White House Domestic Policy Council Director Cecilia Muñoz, then Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the White House, joined summit participants via videoconference 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 San Antonio, TX, [U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan](#) highlighted education as the civil rights issue of our generation. He emphasized that President Barack Obama and his Administration have made

unprecedented investments to improve the quality of education in all of our nation's schools and increase the academic achievement of all students, from cradle to career, including Hispanics who will represent 60 percent of the nation's population growth from 2005-50, and whose success will be key to the nation's future. The Secretary further emphasized that the Administration is advancing this objective through various concrete measures, including making college more affordable to millions of students by increasing the number of Pell Grant recipients and expanding income-based repayment—all efforts that will increase Hispanic college completion and advance the President's goal of ensuring that the United States leads the world once again in the proportion of college graduates.

[U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar](#) stressed in Los Angeles, CA, the importance of the Hispanic community in the development of our nation, and described how the mission of the American Latino Heritage Initiative, established under his leadership in early 2011, serves to recognize, document, preserve, and share with the public the invaluable contributions Hispanics have made to the United States—from Supreme Court rulings and changes to education policy, to military service and business development. He further emphasized the critical role the summits play in ensuring that all stakeholders have a seat at the table, sharing a common purpose: addressing issues involving education, immigration, health care, housing, and the economy, and identifying strategies and solutions to positively impact the Hispanic community. A selection of concrete next steps that have been taken by the federal government and summit participants in direct response to the summits is highlighted in the next section.

COMMITTED TO ACTION:

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

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 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 in July 2011, which, in turn, served as the catalyst for the 2011-12 White House Hispanic Community Action Summits.

The measure of success for each 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 these regional civic engagements. Following is a list of some of the many actions taken by participating federal officials and Hispanic leaders, arranged under five main issue headings: 1) jobs and the economy; 2) education; 3) healthcare, nutrition, and healthy communities; 4) fixing our broken immigration system; and 5) heritage.

Jobs and the Economy

- **Growing Small and Minority-Owned Businesses:** During a session with 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 U.S. Department of Labor (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 Feb. 16, 2012. The conference drew more than 125 small business owners and leaders of minority chambers of commerce from San Bernardino and Riverside, CA, 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. Villarreal convened a similar meeting on May 4, 2012, with the Community Foundation of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, where 20 community-based organizations were in attendance, five of which agreed to form an ad hoc committee to plan a

conference aimed at building capacity of the nonprofit sector in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. As a result of the San Jose, CA, summit, Elizabeth Echols, SBA Regional Administrator, is working with the San Jose Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders on an event targeting Hispanic entrepreneurs and small business owners with the express purpose of providing them with information on available federal resources to help them start and grow their businesses. SBA is also planning two Hispanic small business roundtables in the San Francisco Bay area to provide similar information and learn from Hispanic business leaders and entrepreneurs how to better meet the needs of the community.

- **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 Web links 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. He further stressed the SBA’s commitment to educating and providing the small business community with information about financing, procurement and disaster relief, and technical assistance through, by way of example, in-person presentations, the Internet, and e-mail correspondence. As result of the Arlington, VA, summit, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, SBA, and DOL convened a three-hour educational workshop on August 8, 2012 for an estimated 30 primarily low-income Hispanics wishing to start a small business. On August 30, 2012, a workshop will be held for approximately 30 small business owners in MacLean, VA focused on three topics—the types of business entities, record-keeping, and filing requirements. The McLean workshop is planned as the first of a series of workshops that will focus on other topics, including the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System, filing tax returns online, employment taxes, and using www.IRS.gov as a tool to research tax questions.
- **Supporting Small Businesses:** During a session with Hispanic small business owners at the summit in Orlando, FL, 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 the expeditious modification of GSA’s payment systems to be in compliance with a subsequent Sept. 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 Administration’s outreach to small business throughout the country, like the Orlando summit, the President became aware of the cash-flow challenges faced by small businesses, and, as a result, the OMB issued the memorandum. As a result of the Silver Spring, MD, summit, Ana Recio Harvey, Assistant Administrator in the Office Women’s Business Ownership of the SBA, in partnership with El Camino Career Services, the International Association of Latino-American Professionals, and the Office of County Council Vice-President Nancy Navarro who is also a member of the President’s Advisory Commission on

Educational Excellence for Hispanics, held an economic development training session at the Wheaton Innovation Business Innovation Center on July 28, 2012. Over 60 entrepreneurs and other community stakeholders attended the meeting and learned about contracting opportunities with the local, state, and federal government. The SBA convened another meeting on September 22, 2012 for Latina business owners and Latinas who are seeking to start their own business.

- **Investing in Latin America:** Executive Director to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Gustavo Arnavat discussed during the Miami, FL, summit and the policy conference in Washington, D.C., 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. As a result of the summits in New York, NY, Philadelphia, PA, Arlington, VA, and Silver Spring, MD, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) invited participating community leaders and stakeholders who expressed interest in working with USAID to this year's Global Diaspora Forum held in Washington, D.C., from July 25-26, 2012. The Forum convened over 500 U.S.-based diaspora community leaders from the private sector, academia, media, and civil society. It recognized and celebrated the work of American diaspora communities with roots across the globe and encouraged them to contribute to the development of and diplomatic relations with their countries of origin. The theme of this year's Forum was "Moving Forward by Giving Back," and focused on how the U.S. Government and diaspora communities are partnering to further investment and trade, philanthropy, volunteerism, social innovation, and entrepreneurship in developing and emerging communities around the world. [La Idea](#) referenced above was an important component of the forum.
- **Expanding Opportunities for Rural Communities:** As a result of the Albuquerque, NM, summit, Yolanda Olivarez Garcia, Regional Administrator for the SBA, Terry Brunner, U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) New Mexico State Director, J.D. Salinas, Regional Director for GSA, Marjorie Petty, Regional Director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and their staffs have all focused on expanding potential economic opportunities of the communities of Sunland, Santa Teresa, Anthony, and other rural areas. The goal is to inform Latino business owners and other community stakeholders about the multimillion dollar investment of Union Pacific in the region—an initiative that will create an estimated 1,000 construction jobs and 600 long-term employment opportunities through, for example, the establishment of the Bi-National Metroplex Project. Working in collaboration with the New Mexico Border Authority, representatives from federal agencies referenced above attended a meeting on March 12, 2012, where information was provided regarding federal procurement contracting, counseling for small businesses through resource partners, and guaranteed SBA

loan programs with the intent of ensuring that Latino business owners and other stakeholders in rural communities are better positioned to access and benefit from the investments being made in the region. Phillip Silva, SBA's El Paso District Director, attended a subsequent meeting on June 8, 2012. This new and important collaboration involving the Bi-National Metroplex Project is at the data collection phase—where infrastructure and other needs, such as roads, housing, waste water treatment facilities and medical services are being assessed and identified, with the goals of informing the community about the project, supporting local population growth, and creating new employment opportunities.

- **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 DOL staff have worked closely with La Esperanza Center and subsequently provided a two-day, 10-hour training for their members on the recognition, avoidance, abatement, and prevention of safety and health hazards in the workplace. The DOL also provided information regarding workers' rights, employers' responsibilities, and the process for filing a complaint. Participants received their certificates of completion on Dec. 9, 2011, at an event held in collaboration with the Salvadoran Mobile Consulate. Another two-day training was held at La Esperanza Center in August 2012. OSHA staff members also have set up meetings to address worker safety issues with two other summit participants who represent Hispanic workers in the New York metropolitan area. OSHA continues to reach out to summit participants and regional consulates, including representatives of La Esperanza, Lazos America Unida Center for Latino Arts and Culture, and Solidaridad Hispana Americana in New Jersey and the Mexican Consulate in New York to share information regarding worker protections, including a "[How to File an OSHA Complaint](#)" video in English with Spanish subtitles. This video also has been shared with the Guatemalan, El Salvadoran and Columbian consulates. As a result of the Philadelphia, PA summit, OSHA organized a training session in September 2012 for community stakeholders who are currently seeking employment. Participants were informed of their rights in the workplace and were given general training on safety issues, including working with hazardous materials, utilizing appropriate equipment to ensure personal safety, and other workplace safety matters.
- **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 Dec. 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:** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Equal Opportunity Specialist Isabel Marrero joined HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) 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. FHEO will continue to provide Section 3 education and outreach at chamber events such as the Women's Business Expo and the Minority Contractors Expo and Conference, which was held on May 20, 2012, and where Staci Gilliam, FHEO's director of Economic Opportunity, represented the Assistant Secretary. As a result of the Miami summit, FHEO also established a partnership with the Community Relations Board (CRB) of the Miami Dade County Office of Community Advocacy. The CRB was established in 1963 and since its founding has worked to foster mutual understanding and respect among all constituency groups. As a consequence of this partnership with CRB, FHEO will also be reaching out to the Miami Dade County Asian American Advisory Board, the Black Affairs Advisory Board, the Commission for Women, and the Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board. FHEO has also established a similar partnership with the Neighborhood Housing Services of South Florida (NHSSF), where Section 3 and FHEO information, outreach, and training will be provided to residents served by and contractors working with NHSSF.

- **Supporting Community Development:** At the Milwaukee, WI, summit, Mercedes Márquez, then Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development in HUD, and HUD Regional Administrator Antonio Riley addressed a variety of matters raised by summit participants, including HUD's HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), the largest federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households. Regional Administrator Riley agreed to provide technical assistance to the City of Milwaukee to help with the innovation of program design and identify opportunities to leverage funds. A follow-up meeting was held on April 14, 2012, with a representative of the Office of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett to address HOME, and the Neighborhood Stabilization Funding of which Milwaukee received a total of \$36.8 million. HUD subsequently provided Milwaukee with OneCPD Integrated Practitioner Assistance System (OneCPD) technical assistance specifically related to Community Development Block Grant eligible activities related to mixed-use housing and special economic development. Through this process, issues raised by the Hispanic community at the summit were presented and addressed.
- **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 sessions at the Albuquerque, NM, San Antonio, TX, and Los Angeles, CA, summits, Liz Montoya, Chief of Staff for the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), and Mauro Morales, Policy Counsel in OPM's Office of Diversity and

Inclusion, discussed how OPM is 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 Nov. 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).

- **Identifying Employment Opportunities in Federal Service for Students and Recent Graduates:** On April 6, 2012—the day after the Los Angeles, CA summit—the White House and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) held a roundtable discussion on opportunities in federal service for students and recent graduates at California State University Fullerton (CSUF). CSUF was classified by the Department of Education as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and has a student body enrollment of approximately 35,000 students. The campus contains one of the most diverse student bodies in the state of California and was an ideal institution to launch this outreach effort. The event featured OPM Director John Berry and Julie Chávez Rodriguez, Associate Director in the White House Office of Public Engagement. Over 250 students and 50 faculty members attended the event. Over 60% of the students in attendance were Latino. Two one-hour panel discussions were held during the roundtable. One focused on career opportunities in the federal government and served as an opportunity to learn from the experiences of current federal employees, including Associate Director Chávez Rodriguez from the White House, Mauro Morales, Policy Counsel from OPM, Eridani Quiroz, Program Manager from OPM, Mike Stephens, Federal Investigative Service and Young Government Leaders President and Shannon Garcia-Hamilton, Regional Administrator from the Department of Homeland Security. The second panel was for career counselors and faculty. During this session, the attendees heard from OPM representatives Julie Saad, Student Pathways Program Manager, and Malik Walker, Outreach Specialist on the Student Pathways Program regulations. Attendees received a hands-on demonstration on accessing student internship opportunities through USAJOBS.gov. The career counselors and faculty also received up-to-date information on the status of the proposed regulations and were given detailed information about the three programs through which students can enter the federal government:
 - **Internship Program**— This program is open to any student in any qualified program, as determined under Department of Education guidelines.
 - **Recent Grads Program**— This program is open to any person graduating within the previous two years from any qualified program, as determined under Department of Education guidelines. Includes trade and professional schools, community colleges, 4-year colleges, master's and advanced degree holders.

- **Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program**— This is the “leadership development program.” It is open any person graduating within the previous two years from any qualified advanced degree program, as determined under Department of Education guidelines. Master’s, Ph.D, law, medical, etc.

The roundtable discussion held at CSUF was part of a series of roundtable events that OPM is holding with students around the country to inform and encourage students to consider Federal service.

- **Investing in Hispanic Youth:** At the Albuquerque, NM, summit, summer youth employment was identified as a critical element in keeping youths engaged and offering them positive mentorship and skill-building opportunities. Dusti Gurule, Regional Representative for U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, followed-up with the Santa Fe Youthworks on April 20, 2012, and met with its executive director, staff, and program participants to explore additional options for partnership and collaboration with local workforce investment boards funded by the DOL. In April 2012, Regional Representative Gurule, in partnership with representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), convened a meeting with 26 stakeholders in Las Vegas, NM, which included representatives from nonprofit organizations, local and federal officials, and other sectors. During the meeting, Regional Representative Gurule focused on youth employment and Veterans Employment training programs and connected the representative from the Las Vegas Workforce Center with the regional representative of Veterans Employment and Training Service for further collaboration. During the Silver Spring, MD, summit, Celinda Peña, Senior Advisor with the National Park Service (NPS) and NPS staff met with a representative of Identity, a program serving at-risk youth in Montgomery County. The NPS is now in discussions with Identity to create service projects and internship opportunities that will bring more Latino youth into nearby national parks and inspire them to consider a career with NPS and enjoy time in our nation’s parks for their physical and mental well-being.
- **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, 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 (CFBP), 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 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 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, nonprofit organizations, and the State of Colorado to advance this important issue. Gurule represented the Secretary at the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition conference in the fall of 2012 where an estimated 300 parents attended.
- **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 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 its 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 Oct. 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, and were encouraged to contact OCR’s regional offices with any concerns or questions that they had regarding issues of civil rights. Furthermore, in Cleveland, OH, Catherine Criswell, OCR’s Regional Director, in addition to sharing her expertise and that of her staff with summit participants, continues to provide follow-up technical assistance to Adelante, Latino Resource Center, a nonprofit organization whose representatives had expressed concerns regarding a school district’s communication with Limited English Proficient (LEP) parents. Director Criswell met with and informed Adelante representatives about their civil rights regarding this specific issue and shared relevant information, including a link to a recently obtained [comprehensive resolution agreement](#) and related findings involving communication with LEP parents. Director Criswell agreed that her staff will provide additional technical assistance at the start of the new school year to members of Latino Community Forum, a parent support network founded by Adelante, with the goal of ensuring that they understand more broadly their rights and responsibilities under our nation’s civil rights laws.
- Promoting Environmental Education, Conservation, and the Great Outdoors:** At the Washington, D.C., Hispanic Policy Conference, the Executive Director of the Hispanic Access Foundation, Maite Arce, held a discussion on environmental education in the Latino community with Francisco Carrillo, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), and NPS Senior Advisor Peña. Following the conference, DOI committed to supporting and hosting the Foundation’s fishing clinic with over 250 Latinos from Denver, CO held on July 16, 2011 at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. The program was designed to expose young people and families to the great outdoors and build awareness of DOI’s Land and Water Conservation Fund which is critical to protecting our country’s open spaces. DOI also supported and participated in the Foundation’s August 13th Latino Youth Roundtable with more than 40 Latino youth leaders to discuss the importance of conservation. These two events stemming from the conference are a model for partnering with Hispanic community organizations. DOI and NPS are developing a strategy focused on supporting similar events at other National Parks and Refuges around the country.
- 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, NV summit, business, school, faith, nonprofit, government and other community leaders and stakeholders requested that the U.S. 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, George Sheldon, HHS Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, and Miriam Calderon, Senior Policy Advisor for Early Learning, 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 the nonprofit Project PRAXIS 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 region-wide 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 the dropout rate 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, Nutrition and Healthy Communities

- 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 HHS, 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, 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 that will 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 Nov. 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* for 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 now 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 HHS 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 Dec. 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 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 a session at the Riverside, CA, summit, participants 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 the presentations of Lisa Pino, USDA’s Deputy Administrator for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), 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 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 6 million meals to the hungry in the last two years. As a result of Treasure Coast's participation in the pilot program, 35 new access points exist, four volunteers have been trained, 40,000 SNAP and 5,000 USDA "My Plate" outreach materials have been distributed, 1,326 individuals have been pre-screened for SNAP, and 265 SNAP applications have been submitted.

- **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. Jose Torres, USDA Regional Civil Rights Director, and Dennis Stewart, Western Regional Director, 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, USDA convened the first of these meetings on Jan. 11, 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. As a result of the meeting, participants developed a strategic plan to promote improved access to SNAP and decided to establish CalFresh Consortium to implement the strategy, which requires the consortium to schedule a series of training sessions conducted by county SNAP administrators to train community-based organizations on how to help low-income households to apply for SNAP. To date, three training sessions have been held with the number of participants ranging from 40-55 per session. On April 6, 2012, Roxana Barillas, Deputy Director, USDA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, had a follow-up meeting with Catholic Charities of San Bernardino-Riverside and a representative of the San Bernardino Hispanic ministry. This resulted in Catholic Charities agreeing to partner more closely with Hispanic ministry leaders to ensure that the ministry leaders are informed on how to access USDA emergency food assistance and other resources. Similar partnerships and outcomes with the Los Angeles Catholic Diocese and other stakeholders resulted from the Los Angeles, CA, summit through the work of Director Stewart, Deputy Director Barillas, and Frederick Pfaeffle, USDA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.
- **Educating the Community About SNAP Eligibility:** 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 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.

Advancing Healthy Communities: At the Los Angeles, CA, Summit, Francisco Carrillo, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, from the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and Celinda Peña, Senior Advisor with the National Park Service (NPS), participated in a discussion with the San Gabriel Mountains Forever coalition to discuss a proposal to create a National Recreation Area that would improve public access to the outdoors, support healthy lifestyles, and bolster the economy through fostering an increase in local tourism. Ten million people live in Los Angeles County where a severe shortage of community parks and open spaces exists and where more than 5 million people a year visit the San Gabriel Mountains which extend across both the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests. Congress directed NPS to conduct a special resource study of the San Gabriel River and Mountains and the draft study has received over 12,000 comments. DOI and NPS are carefully considering the comments of the congressional delegation, the US Forest Service, county officials, and local Latino and other community stakeholders as an agency preferred alternative for the study is identified in the coming months. Furthermore, at the San Antonio, TX, summit, Celinda Peña, Senior Advisor with the National Park Service (NPS), discussed how NPS can assist communities with trail development and open space planning. The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program within NPS is assisting the Memorial Heights Neighborhood Association in developing a plan to create walkways and trails along a neighborhood creek that is popular among seniors and children. As a direct result of the summit, NPS program will provide ongoing support to the Neighborhood Association, and will provide other Latino communities with conceptual planning, organizational development, and capacity building to develop a nationwide system of parks, open spaces, rivers and trails.

- **Encouraging Seniors to be on the Move in Our National Parks:** As a result of the Silver Spring Summit, Senior Advisor Peña is working with the Director of Hispanic Outreach Programs of Circle of Rights, Inc. to develop a pilot program that would address the health needs of seniors citizens. The program, tentatively entitled, "Let's Take a Hike" ("Vamos a Caminar"), would encourage our seniors to spend positive time enjoying , exercising in, and breathing the fresh air of our national parks.

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 *Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (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 the gross domestic product by more than 1 percent, and according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the *DREAM Act* as approved in the U.S. House of Representatives 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 U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), 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 more than 100 community leaders, local law enforcement, and DHS officials as a direct follow-up to concerns raised at the summit.
 - In early December 2011, 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. As a result of the San Jose, CA, summit, business and education leaders formed several issue-focused groups, including National Immigration Reform Advocates (NIRA) whose members traveled to Washington, D.C. in April and May 2012 to meet with representatives of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Moreover, at the invitation of ICE, NIRA members participated in a community roundtable in San Francisco in April 2012. ICE has invited NIRA to become a member of its National Advisory Council.
- **Informing the Community About Their Civil Rights:** In response to concerns raised in immigration-related sessions at the Phoenix, AZ, Durham, NC, and Los Angeles, CA, summits, the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has organized or is coordinating follow-up meetings in all three cities. These follow up meetings will focus on addressing in greater detail the issues that were raised by the community involving DHS programs and the protections afforded under our nation's civil rights laws. On May 1-4, 2012, CRCL staff visited Phoenix, AZ, in coordination with the local Community Relations Officer of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for follow-up meetings with community leaders to discuss the office's plans to launch a quarterly roundtable in Arizona. The DHS team met with some of the participants that attended the summit in January 2012, including several elected officials from the Phoenix area and leaders from the faith-based community. They also hosted a community meeting with immigration community-based organizations (CBOs) and will visit Phoenix again in mid-summer 2012 to hold additional meetings with a broader cross-section of CBOs. This will be followed by the first DHS- CRCL quarterly meeting in fall 2012. Following the Durham, NC summit in March 2012, CRCL staff contacted community members and local DHS leadership to discuss a follow-up meeting later in the fall with representatives of CBOs who attended the summit including Centro Hispano and the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), among others. Finally, CRCL staff responsible for community engagement in the Los Angeles area, are reaching out to summit participants and others to invite them to the next regularly-scheduled CRCL quarterly roundtable in Los Angeles. They are working to coordinate this effort with the Chief Service

Officer in the Office of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villariagosa, who attended the summit. Furthermore, based, in part, on information obtained from attendees during the Los Angeles, CA, and Philadelphia, PA, summits, HUD Assistant Secretary Trasviña, has worked extensively with the DHS to respond to community fears of housing providers who threaten or intimidate civil rights complainants with immigration enforcement actions. By way of example, HUD, in collaboration with DHS, recently included a new question and response in its [Immigration Status and Housing Discrimination Frequently Asked Questions](#) (“FAQ”) to the specific question “What can I do if a landlord or neighbor is threatening to report me, a family member or friends to ICE if we report housing discrimination to HUD?” The response provides, in part, that “It is illegal to coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with a person’s exercise or enjoyment of rights granted or protected by the Fair Housing Act,” including “threats to report to a person to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) if they report housing discrimination to HUD.”

Honoring Latino Heritage

- **Recognizing Contributions of Latinos in America:** Francisco Carrillo, U.S. Department of the Interior, and Celinda Peña, National Park Service, have held open space discussions at the San Antonio, Los Angeles, Riverside, and Virginia summits regarding Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's American Latino Heritage Initiative. These discussions help the Latino communities in each location better recognize, celebrate and preserve American Latino heritage. Under Secretary Salazar's leadership, the NPS is creating an American Latino Heritage Theme Study to illuminate the contributions of Latinos to this country. This will be followed by a series of web-based tools to help local communities identify and nominate sites for possible placement on the National Register and the National Historic Landmark list. Secretary Salazar also worked 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

Highlighted below is a partial list of “We Can’t Wait” and other actions President Obama has taken to support middle-class Americans. They were announced concurrently with the White House Hispanic Community Action Summits.

1. **[Housing Refinancing](#)**: On Oct. 24, 2011, 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 Oct. 25, 2011, 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; and
 - 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 Oct. 26, 2011, in Denver, CO, 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 Oct. 28, 2011, two Presidential Memoranda were issued 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 Nov. 8, 2011, 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 Dec. 8, in conjunction with the first board meeting of the Startup America Partnership, Administrator Mills announced that the 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 Youths](#): On Jan. 5, 2012, the Administration announced *Summer Jobs+*, a new call to action for businesses, nonprofits, 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 600 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, nutrition and healthy communities; 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 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; officials of 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 establishing relationships and enlisting support from elected officials, e.g., outreach to parents, workshops on financial aid, and 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 the 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 educational 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 (LEP) parents that is understandable—one school, for example, established a relationship with a software company that allows teachers and LEP parents to communicate through a system translation service; we need to 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 curricula 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?

Healthcare, Nutrition and Healthy Communities

- Building capacity to address the mental health needs of the Hispanic community; the elderly and returning veterans, including immigrants, 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 Hispanics.
- Ensuring that hospitals and other medical facilities communicate with Limited English Proficient 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.

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 (LEP) community members; and people living in poverty—focus on basic needs such as food, shelter and jobs.

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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](#)
- [Five Hispanic-Owned Small Businesses to 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
- [Hispanic Labor Force](#)

Education

- [Winning the Future – Improving Education for the Latino Community](#)
- President Obama's Blueprint for [Keeping College Affordable](#)
- [College Affordability and Transparency Center: College Navigator, Net Price Calculator Center, and Affordability and Transparency List](#)
- [Federal Student Aid](#)
- 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](#)

Health/Health Care

- Learn more about health care at Healthcare.gov
- Aprenda mas sobre el cuidado de salud en Cuidadodesalud.gov
- [My Plate: Healthy Eating/Nutrition Guidelines](#)
- [Mi Plato](#)

Fixing Our Broken Immigration System

- President's Blueprint on Immigration Reform: [Building a 21st Century Immigration System](#)

- White House Web site on Immigration: www.whitehouse.gov/immigration
- USCIS [Citizenship Resource Center](#)
- Notario Fraud: 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](#)
- How to File a [Civil Rights Complaint](#) with DHS

Housing and Community Development

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