

# **POLICY PRIORITIES 2025**





# Advocacy and Policy Framework

Latinos are a dynamic and diverse population that is actively reshaping the course of this nation. Latinos/Latinas/Latines/Latinx can be Black, White, Indigenous, Asian, Arab, and/or Mestizo, among others. They trace their origins to countries on five continents and often have additional identities in the LGBTQ+ community, as a veteran, or as a person with a disability. Our multifaceted contributions are woven into the very fabric of our society, enriching our communities.

## POLICY & ADVOCACY METHODOLOGY

Hispanic Federation's greatest strength lies in its deep roots in Latino communities and relationships with grassroots leaders, nonprofits, public officials, policymakers, media, small business owners, and private sector leaders. Our methodology in driving policy change is to work with community on the ground to identify inequities and develop solutions. HF is an agile and nimble organization that is able to respond to changing and evolving community needs. The largest Latino umbrella organization in the nation, Hispanic Federation collaborates with a network of over 780+ nonprofits in 43 states and territories, we work with local, state, and national leaders and institutions to advance Latino opportunity and equity in the areas of civil rights, justice, and equity and empowerment.





## CIVIL RIGHTS

Advancing and safeguarding civil rights for Latinos stands as a paramount priority at Hispanic Federation. We advocate to combat Latino discrimination, dismantle bias and hate, and ensure that every Latino possesses the fundamental right to participate and be heard in our democracy.

### CIVIL RIGHTS issues include:

-  **Voter Rights**
-  **LGBTQIA+ Rights**
-  **Women's Rights**
-  **Gun Safety Reform**



## JUSTICE

Advocating for just policies for the Latino community is vital to Hispanic Federation's mission. Our community is diverse, and it is imperative that regardless of our differences, we all have equal and fair opportunities to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. HF continuously works to empower historically marginalized communities to ensure fair treatment for all individuals in this nation.

### Issues of JUSTICE include:

-  **Immigrant Justice**
-  **Environmental Justice**
-  **Racial & Social Justice**



## EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT

Promoting equity and empowerment for all Latinos is core to Hispanic Federation's advocacy agenda. Our policy framework presents culturally and linguistically pertinent solutions that aim to tackle the structural and systemic barriers responsible for perpetuating social and economic disparities. HF advocates for equitable policies that work to empower Latinos to fully contribute and benefit from the nation's growth.

### EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT issues include:

-  **Health Equity**
-  **Education Equity**
-  **Economic Empowerment**
-  **Digital Equity**

# Table of Contents

- 5** Federal 2025 Legislative Priorities
- 11** New York State 2025 Legislative Priorities
- 16** Puerto Rico 2025 Advocacy and Legislative Priorities
- 19** State of Illinois 2025 Legislative Priorities
- 21** Connecticut State 2025 Legislative Priorities
- 23** Florida State 2025 Legislative Priorities
- 24** State of North Carolina 2025 Legislative Priorities
- 26** California State Legislative Priorities

# FEDERAL 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## CIVIL RIGHTS

### Voter Rights

#### **Oppose the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act (S128/HR22)**

The SAVE Act represents a direct attack on voting rights under the guise of preventing noncitizen voting—an issue that is virtually nonexistent. This legislation would require all voters to provide citizenship documentation before registering to vote, despite federal law prohibiting noncitizen voting since 1996. Research indicates that millions of eligible voters, particularly women who have changed their names after marriage, would struggle to meet these new requirements. Hispanic Federation opposes this effort to create unnecessary barriers that restrict access to the fundamental right to vote.

#### **Defending Nonprofits**

The erosion of nonprofit protections threatens organizations that serve vulnerable communities throughout the country. Congress must take immediate action to shield nonprofits from politically motivated defunding, misclassification, and the dismantling of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) measures. Hispanic Federation will advocate for legislative strategies to ensure nonprofit funding remains intact and is used as intended. Key moments for action include budget reconciliation, federal program extensions, and debt limit negotiations.

#### **Gun Safety Reform**

While the Second Amendment protects the right to bear arms, rising gun violence poses an urgent public safety crisis. Every day, 13-16 Latino individuals lose their lives to gun violence, with annual deaths in the Latino community increasing from 3,010 in 2014 to 5,853 in 2022. Congress must take decisive action to strengthen comprehensive background checks, prevent firearms from reaching individuals who pose a threat, and invest in mental health resources to ensure safer communities. Schools and public spaces must be protected through responsible policies that prioritize both public safety and constitutional rights.

#### **Sunset of PROMESA and the Financial Oversight and Administration Board in Puerto Rico**

In a democracy, policy decisions that impact people's lives should be made by elected representatives. A return to democratic self-governance requires that ultimate authority on all fiscal and financial decisions on the archipelago must be returned to its elected representatives. Hispanic Federation will advocate to achieve an effective sunset of the PROMESA Act and the Financial Oversight and Administration Board, accompanied by a transparent and independent review of the board's actions and ensuring a responsible transition of control and information to the government of Puerto Rico.

## JUSTICE

### Immigrant Justice

The escalation of anti-immigrant policies, including mass deportations, the termination of birthright citizenship, and the expansion of detention and surveillance, threatens families and communities nationwide. The passage of restrictive measures like the Laken Riley Act signals an urgent need for federal intervention. Hispanic Federation will work to block further legislative attacks and defend the fundamental rights of immigrant communities.

#### **Dream and Promise Act of 2025 (HR1589)**

This legislation would provide a pathway to citizenship to Dreamers, undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children. It would also include a pathway to legal permanent status for recipients of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) beneficiaries.

#### **Work Permit Reform Act**

This legislation would improve and streamline the process of renewing work permits for migrants so they can stay on the job and support their families while contributing to their communities and paying taxes. It will automatically extend the validity of work permits for those already eligible to work in the U.S. when their TPS is extended, eliminating the stress and uncertainty of permit renewals.

#### **Stop Mass Deportations**

Recent prioritization of high profile, mass raids over targeted enforcement to advance public safety are hurting communities across the country and ultimately undermine national interest. Mixed status families are set to suffer demonstrable harm from these measures, with increases in instability, prejudice, and loss of civil status. Likewise, these actions will damage our economy, with immigrant workers being critical to our nation's labor force, especially in rural areas.

#### **Keep Families Together**

The short-lived 2024 Parole in Place Program sensibly allowed undocumented children and spouses without criminal histories who had been consistently present in the United States for 10+ years to apply to adjust their status while remaining with their families. Hundreds of thousands of hardworking families were set to benefit from this program, potentially increasing their tax contributions by upwards of 300%, with commensurate increases in wages and local economic spending. This humane, common-sense policy would have both eased the administrative burden on families and governments while establishing a broadly popular new pathway to settled status. Hispanic Federation calls upon the federal government to restore this program and use it as a blueprint for exploring and codifying new pathways to citizenship for similar groups.

## **Protect Farmworkers**

Farmworkers are the backbone of America, producing food, fuel, and pre-industrial materials not only for our nation, but for the world. Immigrants are estimated to account for 73% of workers in this more than \$1tn industry. They do their work under backbreaking conditions, through harsh weather, and with minimal oversight or work-life balance. To protect these essential workers, we call for augmented inspection and enforcement of labor violations by employers of those on H-1/2 visas. Likewise, we exhort the expansion of protections against dangerous heat and dehydration, as well as adequate safety lighting for any who are assigned to work in the evening to protect farmworkers from the growing dangers of changing agrarian labor conditions.

## **Environmental Justice**

### **Federal Disaster Emergency Response and Recovery**

In the face of Climate Change and natural disasters' threats, Hispanic Federation will advocate to ensure that the process of adopting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Individual Assistance Program Equity Interim Final Rule is completed, and that FEMA has the necessary resources to implement it. Also, in defense of language access rights, Hispanic Federation will advocate for the translation and publication of the updated Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide (IAPPG) into Spanish and any other relevant language for communities in the U.S.

### **Puerto Rico Disaster Recovery – Ensuring Equitable FEMA Assistance**

Climate change and extreme weather events continue to devastate Puerto Rico, highlighting the urgent need for an equitable federal response. Hispanic Federation is advocating for the full implementation of FEMA's Individual Assistance Program Equity Interim Final Rule and the translation of FEMA's updated policies into Spanish to ensure accessibility for affected communities.

### **Sustaining Collaborative Recovery Efforts**

Since 2023, Hispanic Federation and local nonprofit organizations have worked alongside FEMA to strengthen disaster recovery efforts. This collaboration must continue. In 2025, Hispanic Federation will push for the formalization of the "PR FEMA Working Group" and will advocate for the creation of a "PR HUD Working Group" to ensure that local nonprofits play a central role in shaping federal recovery efforts.

### **Puerto Rico Energy & Critical Infrastructure – Advancing Renewable Energy Solutions**

Puerto Rico's transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050 requires federal commitment. Hispanic Federation is calling for the expansion of renewable energy tax credits and sustained investment from agencies such as DOE, EPA, FEMA, and HUD. Prioritizing solar energy is essential to building resilience and ensuring energy justice, particularly in communities most impacted by unreliable infrastructure and climate disasters.

## EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT

### Economic Empowerment

#### Transition from NAP to SNAP for Puerto Rico in the Farm Bill

The Farm Bill, reauthorized approximately every five years, determines funding for agriculture and food programs. This legislation presents a critical opportunity to transition Puerto Rico from the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Currently, Puerto Rico receives, on average, 41% less in nutritional benefits than residents of the 50 states and D.C., with stricter eligibility requirements that leave many vulnerable families without support. Hispanic Federation will advocate for this transition to ensure Puerto Ricans receive equitable food assistance.

#### Expanding the Child Tax Credit

The expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) proved to be one of the most effective policies for reducing child poverty, lifting three million children out of poverty at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. As Congress considers a new tax bill, Hispanic Federation will push for the permanent expansion of the CTC to provide financial relief to families, particularly in Latino communities, where the impact of child poverty remains disproportionately high.

#### Parity for Federal Programs for Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico remains systematically excluded from key federal programs, exacerbating economic instability for its most vulnerable populations. With 43.5% of residents living below the poverty line, disparities in Medicaid, SNAP, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and the Child Tax Credit create significant economic distress for the most vulnerable, low-income households, ultimately forcing families to make the difficult decision to leave Puerto Rico for the states and preventing Puerto Ricans in the diaspora from returning. Hispanic Federation will continue to lead efforts to achieve full parity for Puerto Rico in federal benefits, ensuring families have the support they need to thrive.

#### Social Security Cliff

Latino workers, including immigrants who contribute billions annually through Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs), remain locked out of Social Security benefits. Despite their significant contributions—totaling \$12 billion in 2021—immigrants using ITINs are denied access to retirement and disability benefits. Hispanic Federation will fight to correct this injustice and push for reforms that ensure all workers receive the financial security they have earned.

#### Support the IRS Direct File Program

The initial pilot for the IRS Direct File program met with astonishingly vast uptake and positive reviews according to the Department of Treasury. By streamlining tax filings, families minimize mistakes in filing, reduce costs, and save time, all of which increase compliance with tax policies and save money for American taxpayers. We encourage the government to universalize the direct filing program, and establish funding for the IRS to assess data about how people make use of the direct filing program, and thereby improve quality of service year over year.



## Small Business Facing Capital Reforms

Despite driving American's entrepreneurship and business innovation, Latinos still face unnecessary hurdles and even discrimination in obtaining capital for business ventures. Latino businesses face markedly lower rates of approval for business loans totaling over \$50,000, hindering our access to entrepreneurial capital. Likewise, while Latine businesses comprise 10% of tech-facing firms, they received less than 1% of disbursed venture capital. We encourage Congress to mandate transparency in venture capital investment decisions while reinforcing financial and banking provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to address inequities in business lines of credit. We similarly urge Congress to expand funding for Community Advantage Small Business Lending Companies and implement guardrails to ensure that SBA funds are equitably disbursed, including oversight into the loans awarded to ensure that Latino-owned businesses are equally accessing funding opportunities.

## Housing Access and Reform - Stop Predatory Investing Act

Latinos are less likely to own their homes than their peers, with the Latine homeownership rate roughly 15 percentage points lower than the national average according to data from the St. Louis Fed. Access to quality, affordable housing has only been made more difficult by the raft of private equity investments in single family and affordable housing stocks. Thus, HF urges passage of the Stop Predatory Investing Act to restrict tax breaks for big corporate investors that buy up homes, often driving up local housing prices and rents. This legislation would limit tax breaks for private equity and large investors that currently give them an advantage in the market for affordable single-family homes and helps make homeownership a reality for more families across the country.

---

## Digital Equity

### Renew and Maintain Broadband Programs

Access to affordable, reliable broadband is an urgent problem in both rural and urban communities. Businesses, families, and home workers are all penalized by market forces which perpetually neglect modern infrastructure investments in America's heartland. Hispanic Federation and our partners have actively supported broadband investment under the Affordable Connectivity Program, which led to measurable increases in broadband access among poorer communities of upwards of 10% across the board. Congress has recognized the need for additional investments in broadband and established the Digital Equity Act and BEAD Program through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. We exhort Congress to authorize a similar program and maintain existing programs bringing the economic and lifestyle benefits of high-speed internet access to all communities in the U.S.

---

## Education Equity

### Expansion of Federal Financial Student Aid

Cost is routinely cited as the number one barrier between Latino undergraduate students and degree completion. Pell grants are a vital tool in addressing costs with vast portions of Latino students qualifying for them. Unfortunately, Pell Grants seldom cover all outstanding need, highlighting the urgent need for their expansion. Implementation of the Universal FAFSA would ensure that all students are automatically connected with potential aid opportunities not only from Pell Grants and student loans, but also those from individual institutions.

### **Protect the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program**

Established in 2007, the PSLF offers a clear pathway by which students may have outstanding student loan debt forgiven following ten years of direct employment by government agencies and qualifying non-profits during which time one continually makes required payments. Those benefiting the program have seen an average of over \$95,000 in outstanding debt waived, in exchange for a decade of public service. However, the program also processes applications at a slow rate, and external analysis suggests it may deny more applicants than it ought. The program itself is also at risk. Hispanic Federation calls for a redoubled commitment and action to safeguard the PSLF.

### **Support the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**

The U.S. faces a shortage of skilled tradespeople, and that shortage is not aided by the lack of high-value, effective postsecondary educational trades programs, including vocational schools and apprenticeships. Latino workers are highly represented in trades, including construction and logistics, and are well-poised to continue supporting these industries. However, our community remains underrepresented at the top levels of skilled trades, including plumbing and electrical work. With cost remaining a key barrier to trades training, something must be done to ensure that America's blueprint continues to point toward growth. One key path for supporting apprenticeships would be the refunding and authorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which promotes workforce training and apprenticeship opportunities for low- and middle-income communities.

# NEW YORK STATE 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## CIVIL RIGHTS

### Defending LGBTQ+ Rights in New York

#### Fighting for Inclusive Legislation

Enact the Gender Identity Respect, Dignity, and Safety Act (S1049/A5478) to ensure that incarcerated individuals are treated with fairness and respect. HF continues to advocate for laws that safeguard LGBTQ+ rights, including the decriminalization of sex work and protections for LGBTQ+ youth.

#### Protecting Transgender Rights

Recent federal efforts to roll back transgender protections threaten access to gender-affirming care and safety. HF demands that New York take decisive action to ensure every person has the right to live as their authentic self, free from discrimination and violence.

#### Expanding Mental Health Support

LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly transgender and nonbinary people, face severe mental health challenges. Investment in inclusive and accessible mental health services is urgently needed.

---

## Voter Rights

### CUNY/SUNY Student Voter Empowerment Act (S2056/A3954)

With more young voters seeking election information outside major political parties and candidates, it is essential to rethink how public universities can enhance voter education. We are supporting this legislation that would require each institution of the State University of New York and the City University of New York to designate a staff member to act as a student voting coordinator and require that such coordinator develop and implement a student voting action plan to increase student voter registration and voting and democratic participation among students.

---

## JUSTICE

### Immigrant Justice

#### Right to Counsel for Immigrants (S141/A270)

This legislation establishes the right to counsel for indigent immigrants in immigration court and designates the NYS ONA Director to oversee its implementation, policies, and monitoring of legal services. It mandates state funding for counsel while encouraging local governments and private entities to maintain and expand support for immigration legal services. This bill addresses a critical gap in protecting immigrants from severe consequences such as deportation, family separation, and indefinite detention.

#### Building Up Immigrant Legal Defense – BUILD Act (S4538/A2689)

This bill invests in the development of legal services infrastructure by expanding access to legal representation for individuals facing deportation. It provides competitive workforce development and capacity grants to eligible entities seeking to expand access to counsel. This would strengthen the workforce and enhance the delivery of holistic, culturally competent legal services, especially in underserved regions, including rural communities.

---

## EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT

### Health Equity

#### Equitable Access to Health Coverage for TPS and DACA Recipients (S3602)

Enact Senate Bill 3602, which ensures that Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients in New York continue to receive Medicaid benefits regardless of changes in federal policy. This legislation safeguards access to essential healthcare for immigrant communities, preventing disruptions that could jeopardize their well-being.

#### Increase Funding for the Navigator Program

The Navigator program has been instrumental in ensuring New Yorkers enroll, keep, and use their health insurance. The Governor's budget includes \$28.3 million for Navigators in Fiscal Year 2026. As funding for this program has not accounted for cost-of-living increases over the past decade, we urge the Legislature to increase the funding of the Navigator program to \$38 million. In addition, the legislature should consider funding community-based organizations to conduct outreach in difficult-to-reach communities to increase insurance enrollment. New York should also allocate \$5 million in grants to community-based organizations to conduct this outreach in underserved communities.

## End the AIDS Epidemic

The ongoing HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States disproportionately affects Hispanic/Latinos. According to the latest report from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, (CDC) Latinos represent the only racial/ethnic group where we've seen an increase in the HIV incidence rate, most recognizable among gay/bi men and trans Latina women. We recognize the need to stem the spread of this disease and other chronic conditions through strategic partnerships, culturally sensitive access to prevention, treatment and care, community education and effective public health policy in New York State. The state budget must be reflective of these goals and maintain funding for ETE budget items.

## Economic Empowerment

### Consumer & Small Business Protection Act – CSPA (S105/A5287)

New Yorkers have little recourse against predatory businesses. Nearly all states ban Unfair, Deceptive, and Abusive Business Practices (UDAPs), but New York is one of only eight states that does not ban unfair or abusive acts. This bill calls for banning unfair and abusive business conduct; protecting small businesses; imposing real consequences for harm by raising penalties from \$50 to \$1,000; improving access to justice by allowing class actions; and allowing nonprofit organizations to prevent public harm by holding companies accountable for violations.

### Financial Literacy (S94/A5052)

Despite having the highest labor force participation rates of any community in the US, median Latino household wealth is less than one twentieth that of non-Hispanic whites (\$6,300 vs \$140,000). While differences in salary are a big factor in this disparity, even when incomes are held constant the wealth gaps persist. A big part of the problem is a lack of financial education in Latino communities. Researchers for the Wharton School found that more than one-third of financial inequality in the U.S. could be accounted for by the differences in financial literacy.

This Bill proposes an act to amend the education law, in relation to requiring senior high schools to provide a course in financial literacy and requiring students to complete such courses as a condition of graduation.

### Access to Identification (S163)

Access to safe and affordable banking is an imperative tool for financial wellness. IDNYC provides a form of documentation that allows vulnerable populations to open enroll in services they might otherwise not qualify for. However, IDNYC's viability as an accepted primary form of identification at banking institutions in NYC is still largely limited. Standardizing IDNYC's status as an acceptable primary form of identification at banking institutions is an invaluable prerogative that will secure banking access and its financial benefits for increasingly vulnerable populations. This legislation would amend the banking law, in relation to mandating acceptance of the New York City identity card as a primary form of identification at all covered entities.

### **School Supply Sales Tax Holiday (S4601)**

Amend the tax law in relation to exempting school supplies from sales tax during a specified period each year. This bill will establish a longer, 15-day period for the sales tax holiday on school supplies or items commonly used by a student in a course of study. Each year families will experience the sales tax exemption days prior to the beginning of the school year. The bill also establishes a price threshold of less than \$110 for each school supply item, in line with the current price thresholds for sales tax exemptions for clothing and footwear other necessary purchases for which the state has seen fit to provide relief to working families.

### **Empire State Child Tax Credit**

Governor Hochul proposes a historic expansion of New York's child tax credit for more than 2.75 million children. The Governor's plan would give 1.6 million New York families an annual tax credit of up to \$1,000 per child under age four and up to \$500 per child from four through sixteen. The credit will be phased in over two years, with households with children under four eligible for their \$1,000 credit for the 2025 tax year and those with children over four eligible for the \$500 credit for the 2026 tax year. The Empire State Child Credit is a refundable credit, which can either help offset taxes or be paid out directly to taxpayers as a refund. When fully implemented, it is estimated that poverty among children statewide could be reduced by 8.2 percent.

---

## **Digital Equity**

### **Effective Implementation of the Digital Equity Act and Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment Bill (BEAD)**

The Digital Equity Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden in 2021 as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which allocated a total of \$2.75 billion dollars for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA / under the Department of Commerce) to provide the access, training and devices for communities historically on the wrong side of the digital divide.

According to census data, Latinos are the least likely racial/ethnic group to subscribe to broadband as well as the least likely to have a desktop in their home. Hispanic Federation is asking the ConnectALL office to guarantee that funding reaches this community directly via Latino-led and serving institutions to effectively bridge this Latino digital divide in New York State.

## Education Equity

### Access to Dual Enrollment

Dual and concurrent enrollment coursework is an effective way for high school students to accelerate academically into postsecondary education and earn college credit while in high school. These programs lower the cost of college and time for degree completion; it also reduces student loan debt. A funding source is needed to encourage the expansion of dual and concurrent enrollment programs in high school, bridges the articulation between high schools and colleges and universities and grants more opportunities to students with college completion, financing and credits. Furthermore, accountability measures are needed to ensure TAP awards would be granted only after credit is applied towards a degree in a postsecondary program eligible for TAP.

Hispanic Federation is supporting the reintroduction of a bill pertaining to Dual Enrollment to ensure that students have access to college level courses to ensure post-secondary success.

### Investing in a State Longitudinal Data System

Hispanic Federation supports the creation of a Statewide Longitudinal Data System. Hispanic Federation urges New York State to enhance data collection and analysis capabilities to monitor and evaluate educational outcomes for BIPOC students. Investing in longitudinal data systems P-20W (from preschool to postsecondary education) to provide valuable insights into student outcomes and improve educational planning.

# PUERTO RICO 2025 ADVOCACY AND LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## CIVIL RIGHTS

### Protecting Democracy, Transparency, Accountability, and Public Participation

Enhance transparency and accountability of the Puerto Rico Housing Department's management of \$20 billion in CDBG-DR/MIT recovery funds. Strengthening the Citizen Advisory Committee and maintaining the CDBG-DR/MIT Transparency Portals are essential to ensuring that these funds effectively serve Puerto Rico's recovery and resilience efforts.

---

### Women's and LGBTQ+ Rights

Defend women's reproductive rights as a fundamental health service, supporting the fight against gender-based violence and discrimination, and promoting equity as a core value in Puerto Rico's communities. Additionally, we oppose all forms of discrimination and will continue advocating for the protection and expansion of LGBTQ+ rights to ensure dignity and equal treatment for all individuals.

---

## JUSTICE

### Immigrant Justice

#### Safeguard Immigrant Rights

Unveil and address the unmet needs of the immigrant community in Puerto Rico, advocating for policies that uphold their dignity and human rights. We call on the government of Puerto Rico to safeguard immigrant rights in the face of federal threats and push for the Puerto Rico Department of State to strengthen and expand services through the Immigrant Services Office.

---



## Environmental Justice

### Energy and Critical Services – Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority – LUMA's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

Advocate for improvements to the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority and LUMA's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to enhance energy grid resilience, prioritize renewable energy sources, reduce dependency on fossil fuels, ensure a just transition to sustainable energy, and promote community participation in decision-making. Achieving a decentralized and resilient energy system is vital for Puerto Rico's long-term sustainability and economic stability.

---

## Climate Justice

Adopt the Puerto Rico Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience Plan. This effort will ensure climate democracy and public participation, equitable distribution of climate mitigation benefits, and transparency and accountability in implementation.

---

## EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT

### Economic Empowerment

#### Uniform Guide for Bona Fide Farmer Certification

The complexity and inconsistency of the Bona Fide Farmer Certification process have created significant barriers for small-scale farmers and fishers in Puerto Rico. Hispanic Federation, in collaboration with the Agriculture Public Policy Table, will advocate for the Puerto Rico Agriculture Department to implement a uniform guide that simplifies certification and ensures fair access to economic benefits and incentives.

#### Agriculture and Food Security

Call for the creation of a public inventory of agricultural lands while ensuring protections under the Puerto Rico Land Use Plan, strengthening the fishing sector through participatory collaboration with fishermen's associations, expanding agricultural insurance coverage, increasing farmer participation in Family Market Programs to enhance access to federal nutrition assistance, fostering government collaboration with community organizations supporting local food production, and strengthening agricultural education programs at all levels.

#### Local Child Tax Credit

Advocate for a Local Child Tax Credit (Local CTC), which would provide refundable tax relief between \$1,000 and \$1,600 for families with dependents under six years old, with eligibility based on annual income up to \$26,000. This measure would improve economic mobility and reduce child poverty in Puerto Rico.

### **Short Term Rentals (STR) Regulation**

Adopt legislative regulation that achieves a fair balance between the benefits of Short Term Rentals, the right to housing, and community stability in Puerto Rico. Currently, Short Term Rentals are causing negative impacts in Puerto Rico's communities, such as displacement, precariousness of the quality of life, and insecurity, among others.

### **Fair and Effective Use of CDBG-DR – MIT Recovery Funds**

Call for the Puerto Rico Department of Housing to use approximately \$20 billion in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery and Mitigation (CDBG-DR/MIT) on addressing the housing crisis, preventing displacement, ensuring fair access to critical services, and promoting sustainable community development. The Puerto Rico Department of Housing must address the gap between mitigation and recovery projects.

### **Affordable Housing**

Puerto Rico faces a well-documented housing crisis, with an insufficient inventory of affordable housing and rising costs of renting and purchasing properties. This crisis disproportionately impacts vulnerable communities, leads to displacement, and requires urgent action. Hispanic Federation calls for the reuse of vacant properties to expand affordable housing and the adoption of tenant protections, such as rent control and anti-discrimination policies.

### **"Reglamento Conjunto" – Joint Code**

The Joint Code consolidates over 26 different regulations into one, covering zoning, permits, environmental compliance, municipal autonomy, and more. It significantly impacts Puerto Rico's long-term economic and social development. Hispanic Federation will continue advocating for a code that ensures sustainable community development.

### **Education Equity**

Puerto Rico's schools must be resilient to climate change and natural disasters to ensure uninterrupted education. Hispanic Federation calls for strengthening school infrastructure to withstand climate-related disruptions and for implementing participatory planning that involves school communities in resilience efforts.



# STATE OF ILLINOIS 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## JUSTICE

### Immigrant Justice

#### Increase in Access to Justice Budget

Increase investment in the Illinois Access to Justice Program, which expands access to holistic legal services, including direct representation and legal education. Additional funds would work to scale services, enhance legal screenings, protect civil rights, and combat misinformation.

#### Healthy Illinois Healthcare Budget Advocacy

Continue funding in the amount of \$501 million for the Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors (HBIS) and Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults (HBIA) programs, which provide healthcare coverage to undocumented Illinois residents aged 42 and older.

#### Welcoming Centers State Budget Line Item

Maintain level funding of \$170 million for Illinois Welcoming Centers (IWCs). Continued investment in IWCs will strengthen the state's capacity to provide culturally and linguistically responsive comprehensive services, supporting the successful integration of both new and long-term immigrants in Illinois.

---

### Environmental Justice

#### Wetlands and Small Streams Protection Act (SB2401)

Enact the Wetlands and Small Streams Protection Act, which will restore protections for wetlands and small streams that were formerly protected from pollution and destruction by the Clean Water Act. Many Latino communities in Illinois have experienced increasing flooding, leading to significant property damage. Strengthening protections for wetlands is essential to mitigating these impacts.

---

## EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

### Economic Empowerment

#### Living Wages, Thriving Communities (SR123/HR151)

Through *Living Wages, Thriving Communities*, Illinois Partners are calling for increased state funding for human services and higher wages for sector workers. Chronic underfunding has negatively impacted frontline workers and the communities they serve. Amid federal funding threats and a looming state budget deficit, the campaign seeks to mobilize workers, organizations, legislators, and the public to advocate for equitable investment in human services.

#### Illinois Nonprofit Stabilization Fund

Create and invest in a Nonprofit Stabilization Fund to ensure nonprofits can more effectively manage and compete for government contracts, provide critical services that properly address the diverse and growing needs of Illinois, and help strengthen long-term infrastructure. Nonprofits in the state of Illinois have historically seen a lack of investment in capacity building and long-term organizational infrastructure, particularly for nonprofits of color. Many nonprofits urgently need capacity building support for key areas such as technology, fund development, and administrative systems.

#### Illinois Child Tax Credit

Enhance and strengthen the Illinois State Child Tax Credit to provide critical financial relief for low-income families, particularly Black and Latino households. The proposed \$300 per-child credit for families at or below the median income would benefit communities across the state. Research consistently shows that refundable credits like this reduce poverty, improve health and education outcomes, and stimulate local economies.

# CONNECTICUT STATE 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## JUSTICE

### Racial and Social Justice

#### Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Data Safety and Privacy – (SB2)

Consumers in Connecticut face increasing risks from algorithmic biases and discriminatory assumptions leading to unfair treatment due to stereotyping biases in artificial intelligence. This legislation establishes safeguards to regulate AI tools that may contribute to biased decision-making, ensuring transparency and accountability. Hispanic Federation supports the passage of this bill to protect consumers from harmful AI practices.

## EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT

### Economic Empowerment

#### Enact the Hispanic and Communities of Color Nonprofit Growth and Stabilization Fund (HB5579)

Hispanic Federation calls for a \$1 million appropriation in the Connecticut State General Assembly's Biennium Budget to establish an Act Creating the Hispanic and Communities of Color Nonprofit Growth and Stabilization Fund. This initiative aims to enhance services for Latinos and communities of color by strengthening the capacity of community-based organizations through targeted investments in capacity building, training, and technical assistance.

#### Fair and Affordable Housing

Hispanic Federation supports the passage of SB 1159 and HB 6812 to expand access to quality, affordable housing in communities of opportunity; advance zoning equity frameworks; ensure anti-displacement strategies to fair housing for Latinos, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations living in Connecticut's diverse communities of color.

#### Increase Supports for Affordable Housing (SB1159)

Enact this legislation to increase funding for affordable housing development and rental assistance programs, as well as expand the authority of fair rent commissions.

#### Redefine Inclusionary Zoning (HB6812)

Enact this legislation to redefine "inclusionary zoning" to include the acquisition of property for affordable housing developments.

## Health Equity

### Equitable Access to Health Coverage

Hispanic Federation calls for the passage of HB 5430 and HB 5471 to expand the HUSKY Medicaid program, eliminating immigration status as a barrier to coverage for youth and older adults.

### Access to Health Coverage for Youth (HB5430)

Enact this legislation to provide state-funded HUSKY health coverage for income-eligible children and young adults up to age twenty-six regardless of their immigration status.

### Equitable Access to Health Coverage for Youth and Older Adults (HB5471)

Enact this legislation to provide state-funded HUSKY health coverage for income-eligible children and young adults up to age twenty-six and over age sixty-five regardless of their immigration status.



# FLORIDA STATE 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## CIVIL RIGHTS

### Voter Rights

#### Opposition to An Act relating To Elections (SB396)

Ensuring accessible and equitable voting processes is essential to protecting democracy in Florida. Hispanic Federation opposes SB 396, a bill that imposes restrictive election security measures, expands the role of political committees in poll monitoring, mandates post-election audits, and enforces stricter verification for vote-by-mail ballots. These provisions create unnecessary barriers for voters, disproportionately impacting Latino and other marginalized communities.

---

## JUSTICE

### Immigrant Justice

#### Orlando Trust Act Ordinance

Hispanic Federation Florida (HF-FL) urges the City of Orlando to uphold the Trust Act Ordinance, ensuring local resources are not used for federal immigration enforcement. This policy strengthens community safety by allowing all residents to report crimes and seek protection without fear of deportation for themselves or others involved.

#### Tackling and Reforming Unlawful Migration Policy (TRUMP) Act (CS/SB2-B)

Hispanic Federation strongly opposes the Tackling and Reforming Unlawful Migration Policy also known as the TRUMP Act, a sweeping immigration bill that includes provisions to eliminate in-state tuition waivers for undocumented students, including those under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. If enacted, this legislation would severely limit educational access for immigrant students.

---

### Environmental Justice

#### The Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC)

Hispanic Federation calls for a just transition to renewable energy which is critical for environmental sustainability and economic justice in Florida. This transition would reduce reliance on fossil fuels, improve air quality, lower utility costs, and create a healthier environment for Floridians.



# STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## CIVIL RIGHTS

### Voter Rights

Hispanic Federation North Carolina (HF-NC) is dedicated to protecting voting rights by advocating for legislation that prevents discriminatory voting practices and safeguards access to the ballot. By working alongside local organizations, HF-NC ensures that Latine and immigrant communities in North Carolina can exercise their constitutional rights without the threat of exclusion or disenfranchisement.

---

### Women's and LGBTQIA+ Rights

Protect the right of Latine individuals, particularly women and LGBTQIA+ community members, to access healthcare and legal protections without fear of discrimination or government interference.

---

## JUSTICE

### Immigrant Justice

HF-NC advocates for immigrant justice by supporting state and local policies that protect immigrant rights and promote dignity, safety, and opportunity for Latine families.

#### Protect Save Havens for Immigrants (H78)

HF-NC supports H78, which would prohibit law enforcement agencies and officers from participating in immigration enforcement in North Carolina places of religious worship, elementary and secondary schools, and hospitals.

#### Safeguard Laborers (H80)

HF-NC supports H80, which would prohibit law enforcement agencies from participating in federal immigration enforcement at farms and construction sites.

#### Maintain Equitable Access to Use of Expungements

HF-NC opposes H86, a bill that would prohibit a person who is not a legal resident or citizen of the U.S. or its territories from obtaining an expunction of various criminal charges or convictions. This bill would require criminal courts to determine if a petitioner is a legal resident or citizen by examining documents. If the court cannot determine the petitioner's citizenship status, the court may make an inquiry of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.



### **Protect Sanctuary Policies**

HF-NC opposes S153, the North Carolina Border Protection Act. If enacted this legislation would require state law enforcement agencies to cooperate with federal immigration officials, charge the state budget office with determining if non-citizens are receiving public benefits, incentivize counties and cities from revoking sanctuaries for undocumented immigrants, and ban University of North Carolina institutions from restricting immigration enforcement in any way.

### **Maintain an Equitable Justice System**

HF-NC opposes H261, which would enhance criminal penalties for certain undocumented individuals solely on the basis of being undocumented.

---

## **Environmental Justice**

### **Planning, Response, and Recovery**

HF-NC advocates for environmental justice policies that safeguard Latine communities from the disproportionate impact of climate disasters. Through Unidos por la Tierra y la Comunidad, HF-NC pushes for stronger emergency planning, equitable disaster response, and long-term recovery efforts. By holding government accountable, amplifying community voices, and advancing policies that address environmental inequities, HF-NC fights for a more just and resilient future for Latine communities.



# CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## JUSTICE

### Immigrant Justice

#### Enact Immigrant Legal Defense Fund (SBX1-2)

This legislation establishes a funding allocation for legal services to assist undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers facing deportation, detention, and family separation. It expands access to nonprofit legal service providers and pro bono initiatives, ensuring due process and fair outcomes in immigration proceedings. Hispanic Federation California State Office (HF-CA) advocates for full funding and implementation of this bill and will work with partner organizations to monitor the effectiveness and accessibility of legal services and support public awareness campaigns on the right to counsel for immigrants.

#### Enact Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Agency (SB12)

This legislative proposal aims to establish a state agency to coordinate immigrant and refugee services, streamline grant programs, and enhance stakeholder engagement. The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs would provide a permanent governmental framework to improve access to essential services for immigrant families.

#### Safeguard Sanctuary Cities (Council File 23-0243)

HF-CA strongly supports Los Angeles' Sanctuary City Ordinance, which safeguards immigrant communities by limiting local law enforcement collaboration with federal immigration agencies. This policy ensures that immigrants can access public safety services without fear of deportation, fostering trust between residents and public institutions.

---

### Environmental Justice

#### Inclusive Disaster Relief and Planning for Vulnerable Communities

In response to the January 2025 Los Angeles wildfires, HF-CA launched a comprehensive advocacy effort to secure disaster relief funding for immigrant families and undocumented workers who are often excluded from federal assistance programs. HF-CA will advocate for policies ensuring equitable disaster recovery efforts, support funding for climate resilience projects in immigrant communities, and promote emergency response frameworks that prioritize vulnerable populations.

## EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT

### Health Equity

#### Expansion of Medi-Cal for Undocumented Immigrants

In January 2025, California expanded Medi-Cal eligibility to cover all low-income undocumented residents, marking a historic milestone in healthcare access. However, gaps remain in outreach, enrollment, and service provision for immigrant families. HF-CA supports increased investment in multilingual and culturally competent outreach efforts, initiatives that improve healthcare access for undocumented and uninsured individuals, and partnerships with community-based organizations to ensure equitable distribution of healthcare resources.



**hispanicfederation**

**HEADQUARTERS**

55 Exchange Place, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10005  
Telephone: 212.233.8955  
Fax: 212.233.8996

**CALIFORNIA OFFICE**

Los Angeles, CA

**CONNECTICUT OFFICE**

175 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

**FLORIDA OFFICE**

1650 Sand Lake Road, Suite 390  
Orlando, FL 32809

**ILLINOIS OFFICE**

515 N. State Street, 13th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60654

**NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE (Charlotte)**

206A E. Tremont Avenue  
Charlotte, NC 28203

**NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE (Mt. Olive)**

114 N. Center Street  
Mount Olive, NC 28365

**PUERTO RICO OFFICE**

667 Calle La Paz, Suite 201  
San Juan, PR 00907

**WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE**

1001 G Street, NW  
Suite 1120 West  
Washington, DC 20001

Hotline: (844) HF-AYUDA (844.432.9832)  
(866) HF-AYUDA (866.432.9832)

[hispanicfederation.org](http://hispanicfederation.org)