

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



LPPi 2023-2024 Student Fellows

UCLA

**Latino Policy &
Politics Institute**

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Informing Policy in Uncertain Times

In a year defined by political uncertainty, economic concerns, and social transformation, data remains our most potent tool for shaping equitable and just policies. At the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute (LPPI), we understand that the path to meaningful change begins with advocacy, leadership development, and evidence—evidence that authentically captures the lived realities, contributions, and systemic challenges facing Latino communities.

Our 2024 Annual Report reflects LPPI's dedication to equipping policymakers, advocates, and community leaders with precise, timely insights to dismantle structural inequities. This year, our research illuminated critical issues—from labor market disparities faced by Afro-Latinx workers to the ingenuity of Latina and Latino entrepreneurs in the face of economic challenges. Through initiatives like the Latino Data Hub, we challenge outdated narratives, spotlighting the diversity, complexity, and strength of Latino communities.

In this new political environment, our work is even more important. At LPPI, we have proven our ability to adapt and

respond to rapidly shifting political landscapes. Our expertise allows us to analyze existing policies and forecast their potential impact on underserved communities, ensuring that our research remains at the forefront of pressing national debates.

Yet, we cannot do this alone. Partnership and investment are the only ways to meet these challenges head-on and empower Latino communities to thrive.

As you explore the report, I invite you to reflect on the transformative power of data and research. Together, we can ensure that Latino communities not only weather these uncertain times but thrive as leaders of progress and innovation.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amada Armenta'.

Dr. Amada Armenta

Faculty Director, UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute

The Latino Data Hub: Shaping Narratives, Driving Action

Since its launch in the fall of 2023, the Latino Data Hub (LDH) has provided researchers, policymakers, and advocates with the tools to reshape how the country understands Latino communities. By offering access to critical data, LPPI is challenging outdated narratives and highlighting the vital contributions of these communities. With high-profile coverage in **over 5,700 national and local media outlets**, including National Public Radio, Associated Press, USA Today, NBC News, and CNN, the data from the LDH is fueling a new public conversation—one that recognizes the diversity and complexity of Latino experiences.

Notable research sourcing data from the LDH in 2024 includes a factsheet on Latina educational attainment that highlighted the rapid progress Latinas made in earning college degrees and revealing persistent pay disparities, sparking nationwide conversations on equity in education and employment.

Meanwhile, 2024 voter profiles for key states like **California, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Georgia, Arizona, and Florida** demonstrate the political power and diverse perspectives of Latino voters, debunking stereotypes of a monolithic electorate.

8
voter profiles

4
data briefs

28
research presentations

65
community partners

1,125
webinar registrations

5.7K
media placements

32.7K
data exploration sessions



“At LPPI, we believe that accurate data is one of the cornerstones for equity. Through the Latino Data Hub, we’ve demonstrated how data can be a powerful tool to inform policy and empower Latino communities.”

– Rodrigo Dominguez-Villegas,
director of research, LPPI,
and director of the Latino Data Hub.



Empowering Communities Through Data

Beyond publications, the LDH has empowered communities through its **Action Labs**. In Arizona, 11 policy advocates and community leaders developed data-driven strategies to address health, housing, and education challenges. In California’s Imperial Valley, LDH staff trained young leaders on how to use insights obtained through the data tool to advocate for equitable policies in their communities.

By reframing media narratives and equipping change-makers with actionable insights, the Latino Data Hub is not just shaping how Latinos are perceived—it’s driving policy solutions and empowering communities to lead the way toward equity and justice.

Centering Latinas in Policy and Research

L PPI is committed to amplifying the voices and leadership of Latinas, whose contributions have been historically overlooked in policy and research. The **“Latina Futures: Transforming the Nation Through Law and Policy”** symposium, held in January 2024, was a landmark event that underscored the critical need for Latinas to be at the forefront of shaping policy. This sold-out symposium brought together over 400 national and state leaders to discuss how Latina voices can transform the nation’s legal and policy landscapes, reflecting the broader societal shifts that demand greater inclusivity and representation.

The event—co-hosted by LPPI with Latina Futures, 2050 Lab, the Latina Lawyers Bar Association, and the UCLA Chicana Latinx Law Review—is part of a broader effort to ensure that Latina experiences and challenges are central to our work. Whether addressing the underrepresentation of Latinas in the judiciary or advocating for policies that expand opportunities for Latina leaders, LPPI’s research and initiatives will continue to center their experiences. The growing demographic and political influence of Latinas calls for a renewed focus on dismantling systemic barriers and creating pathways for leadership, both within our organization and in the broader policy environment.

69
speakers

19
sessions

400+
attendees



UCLA Law professor Laura Gómez (far right) spoke with (left to right) California state Sen. María Elena Durazo, Texas state Rep. María Luisa Flores, U.S. Rep. Nanette Barragán and New Mexico state Sen. Antoinette Sedillo-Lopez about the need for a Latina lens in policymaking across all levels of government.



Mary H. Murguía, chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, and Janet Murguía, president and CEO of UnidosUS.

Guiding Policy with Evidence

Evidence-based research is a critical compass for equitable policy solutions, and at LPPI, we transform knowledge into actionable insights that shape policies for a more just future. This year, our research spotlighted challenges such as labor market disparities for **Afro-Latinx** workers, Latina educational attainment as a pathway to mobility, and language barriers to equitable healthcare access.

Our publications challenge the narrative of a monolithic Latino community, showcasing its diversity. The **AAPI Latino** data brief explores the intersectionality of identity, showcasing the unique needs of individuals navigating dual cultural identities. Voter profiles sourced from the **Latino Data Hub** spotlight the diversity of Latinos in battleground states like Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Arizona, debunking persistent myths and fostering a nuanced understanding of our communities.

8
reports

17
data briefs

260K
website visits



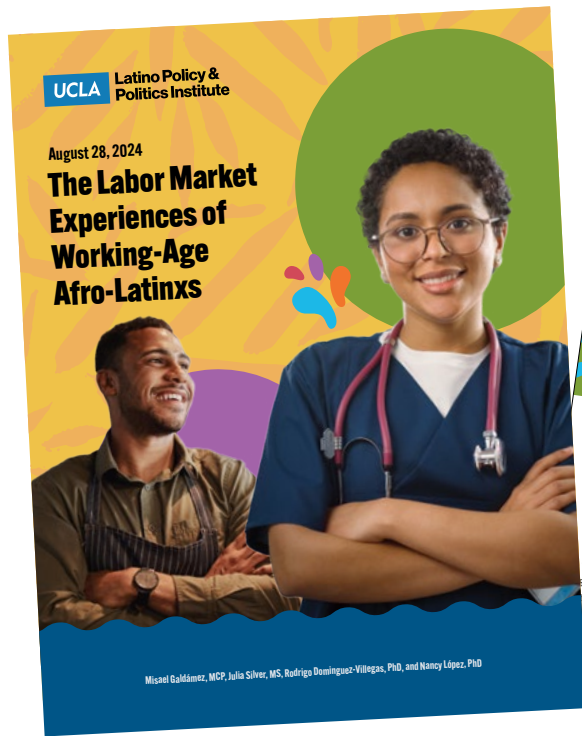
“At LPPI, research is more than just numbers—it’s the experience of our community. Our unique approach lies in asking questions others overlook for Latinos and other marginalized identities, such as utility debt, sustainability planning, and climate change impacts on small businesses. Our work is rooted in community and equity and the belief that together, we can build a just future for all.”

– Silvia R. González, director of research, LPPI

Highlighting Afro-Latinx Experiences

The Afro-Latinx research at LPPI builds on the foundation laid by the 2023 report *Centering Black Latinidad*, which highlighted the intersection of race and identity within the Latino community and underscored the need for disaggregated data. Building on this work, the *Latino is Not a Race* report highlights the importance of integrating “street race” into federal data collection to better capture the racialization of Latinos, particularly Afro-Latinx individuals. The *Labor Market Experiences of Working-Age Afro-Latinxs* report complements this by addressing economic inequities, such as higher unemployment and underrepresentation in key industries, calling for actionable policy solutions.

These two publications were further enriched by the *Understanding Afro-Latinx Experiences through Data Disaggregation* webinar, in which experts, including Dr. Nancy López—co-author of all three reports—emphasized the transformative power of disaggregated data in challenging inequities and driving impactful policies.



Faculty Spotlight: Nancy López

Nancy López is a sociology professor at the University of New Mexico and a co-founder of the Institute for the Study of “Race” and Social Justice. A transformational in intersectional research, her work examines how race, gender, and class interact to shape social inequities. Through these efforts, Dr. López has driven critical conversations on the importance of disaggregated data in addressing racial disparities. Her contributions to LPPI’s reports bring vital attention to the unique and diverse lived experiences of Afro-Latinx communities. By advocating for targeted, equity-driven policy solutions, these works emphasize the importance of using nuanced data to address systemic inequities.

“Intersectional research like this is crucial because it brings to light inequalities within our Latino community. Afro-Latinx workers are often overlooked in broader discussions about racial and ethnic disparities,”

– Misael Galdámez, senior research analyst, LPPI

Shaping Narratives: Media Spotlight on Afro-Latinx Research

The Afro-Latinx reports garnered significant media attention, underscoring their impact on public discourse. The authors and their research were featured in the Associated Press, CNN, and NBC News, among other national and local press. This widespread coverage underscores the relevance of LPPI's research in informing policy and shaping narratives around Afro-Latinx communities.

52 media placements



Advancing a Just Transition Through Data

In the face of economic uncertainty and climate challenges, we are committed to ensuring that Latino communities are equipped with the resources they need to thrive. Our small business portfolio highlights the diversity of entrepreneurship in our community and how Latino entrepreneurs drive microbusiness growth, often out of necessity, to sustain their families and communities during the economic upheaval of the COVID-19 pandemic. These efforts inform data-driven policies that protect both economic vitality and community well-being.

To further advance this mission, we've published three fact sheets highlighting the gaps in the disaster preparedness of small businesses in California, Arizona, and Texas. Across these states, we found that most small businesses are unprepared for extreme weather events. Our research underscores the urgent need to include ethnic and minority-owned small businesses in larger policy discussions, such as climate change, to ensure they remain engines of economic stability in our communities.



The Economic Recovery and Entrepreneurship Project

In 2024, LPPI's **The Economic Recovery and Entrepreneurship Project (TEREP)**, supported by a generous \$1 million grant from JPMorgan Chase & Co, focused on the intersection between Latina entrepreneurship and climate resilience. By uplifting the stories and strategies of small business owners, LPPI ensures that policymakers have the tools to address the pressing challenges posed by climate change while advancing economic opportunity for Latino communities

Every publication reflects our commitment to creating timely, accurate data to amplify Latino contributions and ensure their needs and voices are central to policy making. In uncertain times, our work drives solutions that harness the full potential of Latino communities to shape a more equitable future.



“ Small businesses are the pillars of our communities and local economies. Yet, many face unique challenges in navigating the impacts of climate change. Our research on entrepreneurs’ emergency preparedness informs policy development to ensure they can keep their doors open and continue contributing to their communities.”

– Julia Silver, senior research analyst, LPPI

Introducing the Latino Health and Climate Advisory Committee



Mar Velez

Latino Coalition for a Healthy California



Colleen Callahan

Luskin Center for Innovation



Laura August

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment



Dr. Michael Méndez

UC Irvine School of Social Ecology



Irene Burga

GreenLatinos



Dr. Leticia Classen Rodriguez

SocioEnvironmental and Education Network



Dr. Paul Ong

UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge

UCLA LPPI launched the Latino Health and Climate Project, generously supported by the California Wellness Foundation. Guided by a diverse group of experts, this project addresses the critical intersection of climate change and health disparities.

The group will guide UCLA LPPI's development of a data dashboard that provides essential data about environmental and health inequities and how they impact Latino communities. This initiative will provide evidence to foster policy change that enhances economic opportunity, health, and environmental justice outcomes for Latinos in California, promoting a more equitable future for all Californians.

Addressing Disaster Disparities for Undocumented Migrants

In May, we sponsored an event at the Beckman Center of the National Academies of Sciences & Engineering to explore the unique vulnerabilities undocumented migrants face during disasters, focusing on displacement and systemic disparities.



“ This workshop represents a deliberate step towards addressing and uplifting the complex challenges faced by undocumented migrants in the wake of climate-induced disasters.”

- Michael Méndez, assistant professor of Environmental Policy & Urban Planning, UC Irvine



Unlocking Insights for Equitable Change



The partnership between the **Latino Data Hub (LDH)** and the **Black Wealth Data Center**, which began in 2024, embodies a shared goal of equipping public, private, philanthropic, and nonprofit sector leaders with actionable data for policymaking and investment decisions that promote racial equity and justice. In 2024, we launched the partnership with the *Unlocking Insights for Equitable Change* webinar and led discussions about the importance of reliable, accessible, and comprehensive disaggregated data at various high-profile events and conferences. By joining forces, the LDH and BWDC aim to break down barriers to reliable and accessible data, addressing inequities and pushing for more equitable policymaking.

From left, Harsha Mallajosyula and Leela Bhashyam of Black Wealth Data Center, Mariah Bonilla and Rodrigo Dominguez-Villegas of UCLA LPPI at the Power of Difference Conference.



“ Like many mixed people, AAPI Latinos have often seen themselves in parts and have felt compelled to choose one identity over the other in different contexts. But perhaps now, we do have a single identity: We are AAPI Latinos.”

- Charlee Thompson, policy associate, NW Energy Coalition

Groundbreaking Research on the AAPI Latino Population

The **AAPI Latino** data brief published in May in partnership with the AAPI Civic Engagement Fund is a pioneering analysis and one of the first of its kind to focus exclusively on the experiences of Asian American and Pacific Islander Latinos. This rapidly growing yet historically understudied population offers a unique perspective on identity, culture, and opportunity within the broader Latino community. By uncovering these insights, LPPI challenges the gaps in existing research and emphasizes the importance of disaggregated data in understanding Latino diversity. Reports like this equip policymakers, researchers, and institutions with the tools to craft inclusive policies that address systemic inequities and celebrate the full contributions of all Latinos.



Developing the Next Generation of Latino Leaders

As UCLA advances toward becoming a Hispanic-Serving Institution, LPPI is setting a new standard in leadership development through our **policy fellowship program**. Focused on shaping the next generation of Latino leaders, this program equips students with the tools, experiences, and networks needed to create transformative change.

Since its inception, the program has supported over 120 fellows, most of whom are first-generation college students and identify as students of color, primarily Latino.

The program's impact is evident in the impressive career trajectories of its alumni. Graduates of the LPPI policy fellowship program have secured positions at distinguished companies, nonprofits, various levels of government, and competitive national fellowships such as:

- Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship
- California Capital Fellows Program
- California Department of Justice
- California State Assembly
- Center for American Progress
- Climate Resolve
- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) Policy Fellowship Program
- Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs
- Deloitte Public Sector Consulting
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Estolano Advisors
- Inner City Law Center
- JPMorgan Chase Foundation
- Los Angeles City
- Los Angeles County
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
- National Immigration Law Center
- NYC Urban Fellows Program
- Public Policy & International Affairs (PPIA) Program
- Rural Community Assistance Corporation
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- UnidosUS
- Urban Institute

The program is a model for developing Latino leaders who are ready to make an impact. LPPI fellows carry forward the skills and vision gained through the program to drive meaningful change in their communities and beyond.

Collaborations

L PPI is committed to strengthening and amplifying the impact of organizations and institutions working toward equitable outcomes for Latinos and communities of color nationwide. Through collective action and collaboration, we have deepened our reach and influence. In 2024, we partnered with the following organizations:

- AAPI Civic Engagement Fund
- Alliance for a Better Community
- AltaMed
- Arizona Community Foundation
- ASU Center for Latina/os and American Politics Research
- Bet Tzedek
- Black Wealth Data Center
- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- Building Skills Partnership
- California Budget & Policy Center
- California Community Builders
- California Community Foundation
- The California Endowment
- California Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- California Primary Care Association
- The California Wellness Foundation
- The Campaign for College Opportunity
- Casey Family Programs
- Cedars-Sinai
- Central Valley Community Foundation
- Chicanos Por La Causa
- Cordoba Corporation
- Community Coalition
- Community Justice Alliance
- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
- Cultivating Inland Empire Latino Opportunity (CIELO) Fund
- Deutsche Bank Research
- El Centro Comunitario de Hendersonville
- Enterprising Latinas, Inc.
- FLORECER
- GreenLatinos
- Hispanics in Philanthropy
- Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE)
- Imperial Valley Equity & Justice Coalition
- Inclusive Action for the City
- The James Irvine Foundation
- Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
- JPMorganChase
- Kalamazoo Community Foundation
- La Cooperativa Campesina de California
- Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley
- The Latino Cancer Institute
- Latina Future, 2050 Lab
- Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
- Latino Community Foundation
- Lifeline Community Services
- Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee on Anti-Poverty of San Diego County, Inc.
- MANA de San Diego
- NALEO Educational Fund
- National Association of Broadcasters
- National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders
- Planned Parenthood Northern California
- Prosperity Lab
- Protecting Immigrant Families
- President's Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics
- California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
- The Rock Found
- San Diego Foundation
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- Smithsonian Institution
- SocioEnvironmental and Educational Network
- Southern California Association of Governments
- Stop AAPI Hate
- UC Irvine School of Social Ecology
- UCLA Asian American Studies Center
- UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge
- UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center
- UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation
- UnidosUS
- The Unity Council
- Univision
- USC Equity Research Institute
- Urban Institute
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Mobilization and Advocacy: Transforming Research into Action

In 2024, LPPI amplified its impact through robust mobilization and advocacy efforts, ensuring that data-driven research informs equitable policy decisions at all levels of government. By strategically engaging policymakers, community advocates, and organizational leaders, LPPI transformed insights into action, making strides toward a more equitable future for Latino communities and beyond.

20
outreach campaigns to highlight research

30+
legislative meetings

120
California Senate and Assembly members received LPPI resources

500+
legislative offices contacted



Engagement That Drives Policy Change

Through a mix of virtual and in-person briefings, LPPI engaged with over 30 California state legislative offices, federal representatives, and advocacy leaders.

LPPI's curated resources reached all 120 California Senate and Assembly offices, ensuring policymakers had access to the latest research to guide their decisions.



Strategic Outreach to Policymakers and Advocates

Over 20 tailored outreach campaigns, amplifying research among key stakeholders, including state and federal policymakers, community organizations, and advocacy groups.

Expanding its reach beyond California, LPPI engaged legislative staff and elected officials in Georgia, Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Nevada, as well as members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.



Strengthening Partnerships for Better Judicial Representation

In November, LPPI co-hosted a successful policy forum with *Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE)* in Sacramento, focused on Latino representation in California's judiciary. This event illustrates our ongoing strong partnership with community partners like HOPE, an organization that has long been at the forefront of addressing barriers to Latinas' participation in public service.

Through this collaboration, LPPI engaged directly with California policymakers, advocacy groups, and stakeholders to discuss the underrepresentation of Latinos in the judiciary and strategize on actionable steps to increase diversity. The event highlighted the importance of further investment in research and initiatives that promote equal representation, paving the way for future efforts to build a more inclusive and equitable judicial system.



Addressing Wildfires Impact on Latino Communities

The January 2025 wildfires in Los Angeles have devastated Latino communities, disproportionately affecting low-income and immigrant families already struggling with systemic inequalities. At LPPI, we are committed to ensuring our communities are not left behind in disaster recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Our research and advocacy focus on creating equitable policies for disaster preparedness and recovery, prioritizing access to resources and support for underserved populations. As we work with community leaders and policymakers to rebuild Los Angeles, LPPI is dedicated to creating long-term resilience through data-informed solutions that protect and empower all communities in the face of future climate disasters.

Stewardship of State Resources

Support from the California State Legislature, alongside our partners and donors, has been crucial to advancing UCLA LPPI's mission. State funding enables us to hire staff and over 20 students annually, offering living wages, professional development, and paid fellowships through our policy fellows program. This support allows our team to focus on producing data-driven, Latino-centered research that drives equitable, impactful change.

Thank you to our supporters

UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Institute extends its deepest gratitude to the generous grant-giving organizations whose support has been instrumental in advancing our mission. Their contributions have enabled us to develop and sustain impactful programs that drive policy change, expand opportunities, and uplift Latino communities and other historically marginalized populations.

We sincerely appreciate the trust and investment of the following grant sponsors:

- Bloomberg Family Foundation
- Casey Family Programs
- Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund
- James Irvine Foundation
- J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation
- Open Society Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- The California Endowment
- The California Wellness Foundation

LPPI expresses our heartfelt appreciation to the following individuals, foundations, and organizations, along with many others, whose significant contributions have been instrumental in advancing our mission:

Visionary Circle (\$10,000+)

Honoring our most generous donors whose leadership drives meaningful policy change.

- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
- The Judge/Ellis Family Fund

Impact Leaders (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

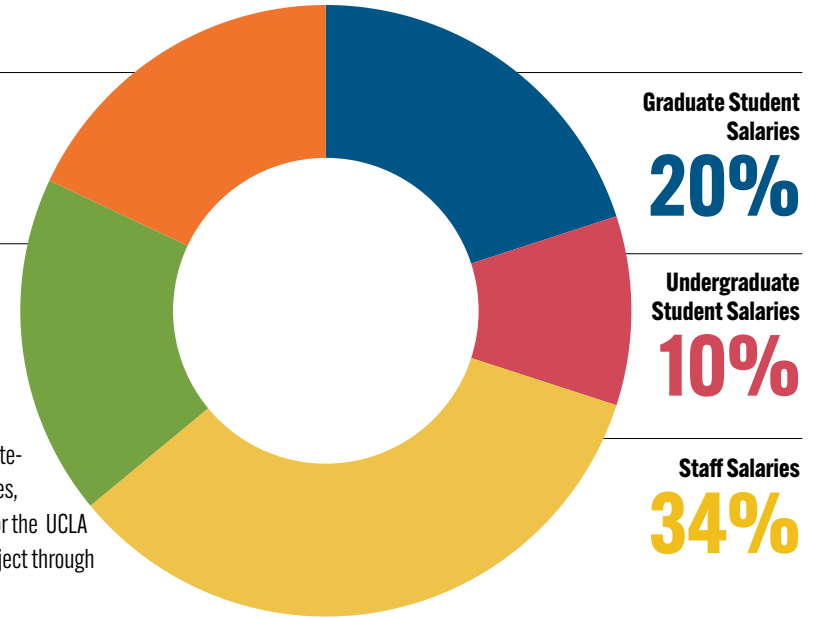
Recognizing those who make a significant investment in advancing equity and opportunity.

- Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
- Hines, Lena Yvette
- Katalina Enterprises, LLC
- Polanco, Richard

Fringe Benefits
18%

Operating Expenses
18%

Breakdown of state-allocated expenses, including costs for the UCLA Voting Rights Project through June 30, 2024.



Changemakers (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Supporters dedicated to expanding programs that uplift Latino communities.

- AltaMed Health Services Corporation

Advocates for Progress (\$500 - \$999)

Committed donors helping amplify policy solutions for systemic change.

- E&Y Foundation
- Herrera Jr., Pastor
- Romo, Lisa
- Yan Esq., Jerett T.

Community Supporters (\$100 - \$499)

Grassroots supporters whose contributions fuel research and advocacy efforts.

- Armenta, Alicia M.
- Avila, Edward J.
- Cesar Chavez Foundation
- Cortez, Anibal Omar
- Cota, Irma
- Gonzalez Macedonio, Margarita
- Guerrero-Lewis, Norma
- Gutierrez, Linda Margarita
- Kergan, Sasha R.
- Lopez, Maria G. Rubio
- Nigg, Joel
- Ocañas Group
- Ordin Esq., Andrea Sheridan
- Pendergast, Mary
- Preciado, David
- Torres, Marisabel

Friends of LPPI (\$25 - \$99)

Every gift makes a difference—thank you for being part of our mission!

- Espinoza, Roberto Manuel
- Hernandez, Thomas Eric
- Kushindana, Kwaku O.
- Maack, Stephen C.



Looking to 2025

As we navigate shifting political realities, UCLA LPPI remains resolute in advancing policies that center Latino voices and experiences. The year ahead presents complex challenges— from attacks on immigrant rights, access to health care, and economic opportunity. Yet, in times of uncertainty, our role as a trusted, evidence-driven organization is critical. This year, we are also excited to welcome the Honorable Eduardo Garcia as Senior Advisor for Policy and Public Affairs and Belem Lamas as Policy Director, further strengthening our efforts to address these pressing issues.

In 2025, we will recommit to our mission to produce data that drives equitable solutions and combats misinformation. Through the Latino Data Hub, TEREPE, and new initiatives on housing, wealth, and the environment, we will equip policymakers, advocates, and community leaders with the facts to defend against harmful policies and narratives while amplifying the resilience, diversity, and contributions of Latino communities. Our research will tackle urgent and emerging issues, from labor market barriers and gender disparities to climate change preparedness, while investing in leadership development to empower the next generation of Latino changemakers.

The road ahead requires bold partnerships, sustained investment, and a commitment to truth. Together, we will ensure that Latino and *all* underrepresented communities are not sidelined but are central to shaping the policies that define our collective future.



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