



CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1020 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California Latino Legislative Caucus Budget Priorities

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the California Latino Legislative Caucus, we request your support for the following ten budget items for the purposes of maintaining current levels of funding. As we prepare to confront the challenges that lie ahead, we must remain vigilant in safeguarding the progress we have made thus far.

The California Latino Legislative Caucus is acutely aware of our decisions' impact on the individuals and communities who depend on us for support. Therefore, it is incumbent upon our legislative body to act with prudence and foresight and ensure that budget decisions reflect our commitment to serving the best interests of all those who rely on our leadership. Thus, the California Latino Legislative Caucus is prioritizing safeguarding all investments already promised and made in our communities and ensuring that the existing budget priorities of the Caucus are not compromised through budget cuts.

The issues addressed in this request are central to our caucus' mission to expand healthcare access and enhance workers' economic security, immigration, and humanitarian services, among many other historical investments. Approval of these items will benefit millions of residents and generations of future Californians, given that many of these investments are a lifeline for our Latino community.

Preservation numbers and funding levels for each budget item are listed below where appropriate:

Health Equity

1. Maintain \$22.4 billion in current funding levels for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program.
2. Maintain \$20 million for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), which provides court-appointed advocacy services for children who have been removed from their home due to allegation of abuse or neglect.

Housing Equity

3. Maintain current levels of funding for CalHome Program, which provides grants to local governments and non-profit organizations to assist first-time homebuyers for down payment assistance and home rehabilitation.

(CHAIR)

Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes

(VICE CHAIR)

Senator Lena A. Gonzalez

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Economic Equity

4. Maintain \$30 million in funding for Family Urgent Response System (FURS) Program, a 24/7/365 phone hotline for current or former foster youth and their caregivers to connect them with a mobile response and stabilization team during crises.
5. Maintain \$134.1 million in ongoing funding for CalWORKs Expanded Subsidized Employment Program, which provides six months of subsidized work experience with participating local businesses.
6. Maintain \$20 million for Outreach, Education, and Free Tax Preparation Assistance (FTPA) grants with year-round contracts to local community-based organizations to provide free tax preparation services.

Immigration/Human Rights

7. Maintain \$15.2 million in funding for the TPS and CSU Immigration Legal Services Programs. The TPS Program provides legal immigration services to individuals who have received Temporary Protected Status relief, which allows individuals from countries with unsafe conditions to remain in the United States. The CSU Program provides free immigration legal services to all students, faculty, and students at California State University campuses.
8. Maintain current funding for the Children’s Holistic Immigration Representation Project (CHIRP), which provides legal and trauma-informed support services for unaccompanied immigrant children in California.
9. Maintain \$186.1 million Border Shelter Services for Immigrants (BSSI) Project within the Rapid Response Relief, which provides wrap-around shelter, medical, and other services for individuals at the southern border.

Diversity

10. Maintain \$15 million for Latina Futures for the UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Institute (UCLA LPPI) to research, collect, and analyze data about the Latina experience in California.

Should you have further questions or concerns, please contact Dulce Ramirez, Principal Consultant for the California Latino Legislative Caucus, in Assemblymember Cervantes’s Capitol Office at 916-319-2058 or Dulce.Ramirez@asm.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



SABRINA CERVANTES
Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus
Assemblymember, 58th District



LENA GONZALEZ
Vice Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus
Senator, 33rd District