

COVID-19

**LEAGUE OF
UNITED
LATIN
AMERICAN
CITIZENS**

LATINO IMPACT REPORT



Latinos are on the front lines in the fight of COVID-19



Latinos continue to work through the crisis to survive



Latinos are putting themselves at risk to keep their jobs





Latinos are relying on food banks to feed their families





Latinos are also trying to care for family and loved ones



COVID-19

**LEGISLATIVE
ACTION PLAN
ADDRESSING THE
NEEDS OF THE
LATINO
COMMUNITY**

BY DOMINGO GARCIA AND JUAN PROAÑO

FORWARD

April 14, 2020

Dear Friends,

For the foreseeable future, the way we think about our Latino community will truly be different. What hasn't changed are our values, commitment, and sense of responsibility to one another. It's this shared sense of unity that will bring our community together and make us stronger together.

As we watch the coronavirus crisis unfold in the US, we are witnessing a new reality take shape. No one knows exactly what lies ahead in this uncharted territory. Yet one thing is certain, this crisis will have a dramatic impact on the Latino community, our most vulnerable, especially isolated seniors, immigrant communities, Latino families and single-parent households, those currently living paycheck to paycheck, and small Latino owned businesses.

For over 90 years, LULAC was on the front lines, fighting for the rights of every Latino across the country. We are on the front lines fighting for civil rights, equity in our education system, voting rights, immigrant, environmental, economic justice, immigration reform, and against voter suppression.

Today we find ourselves fighting for equity in sick leave, unemployment compensation, stimulus compensation, small Latino and minority owned businesses and for everyone affected by this crisis. Make no mistake, legislation working its way through Congress right now will change the landscape of our economy, by picking winners and losers. If it fails, our country may fall into a depression we have not seen in generations with Latinos falling further behind after making significant strides over the last decade.

Most importantly, we are fighting to ensure that COVID-19 testing and treatment are 100% covered by our Federal government for every person in the United States and that testing and treatment cannot be used as a public charge against any person who has applied for a Green Card or will do so in the future. No one can be safe if our most vulnerable are left without treatment.

The enormity of the COVID-19 pandemic has created an environment where our Latino community is heeding warnings and observing social distancing. For all of us, this disruption of our normal lives can bring us further away from the things we cherish spiritually, educationally, culturally and socially.

In an effort to bridge these gaps and bring the Latino community together, we have created a Coronavirus Community Resources Page at lulac.org/covid19 to share our collective community resources, informing you of what is available remotely in the form of online learning, virtual events, volunteer opportunities and all the ways you can continue to connect from home.

For more than 90 years our LULAC community has been working together to solve problems and meet the needs of the Latino community and we have proven that by working together as a people we can meet every challenge.

We know that our safety net of vital programs and services will see a dramatic rise in demand in the days and weeks ahead and that the need will be greater than the available resources.

As a result, LULAC is working with partners and local agencies to develop plans to ensure that the most vital services remain operational. Our desire is to safeguard our most vulnerable populations as they continue to receive urgent services; including meal deliveries for isolated seniors, emergency counseling across all populations and assistance for those facing serious unforeseen financial crises.

We thank all of those who have supported LULAC throughout the years and have demonstrated faith and trust in our mission to build community and care for those in need. Your support makes this all possible.

As we go forward together under these unprecedented circumstances, let us be mindful of our need to continue to maintain the connections we have with one another and our community. Think about how you can engage with others, support one another and continue to help care for those in need. We are all learning together and welcome any feedback you may have during this period. Please write to us at info@lulac.org with your feedback and recommendations.

Stay safe, stay healthy and take care of yourself and your loved ones.

Sincerely,



Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President

LULAC

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OVERVIEW

Latino communities and all communities of color in the U.S. are being affected disproportionately by the spread of coronavirus.¹ How the government responds will impact the Latino community for years to come and set a precedent for how the U.S Government responds during times of crisis and how it deals with the exigent needs of underserved communities of color.

LULAC is calling for a Pandemic Response Plan which includes the following:

1. Federal and Local government to collect and report on ethnic data.
2. All critical information resources be provided in English and Spanish immediately to the public.
3. Provide undocumented immigrants working as healthcare practitioners, technical occupations in the medical field, and essential workers, immediate temporary protective status with a pathway for citizenship by the end of 2020.
4. Latino participation in medical trials for COVID-19 vaccine as Latinos are under represented in most trials.
5. Access to emergency paid sick leave, expanded unemployment insurance and equal access to COVID-19 testing and treatment.
6. Congress must make sure our children don't go hungry, have the resources they need for home schooling (including access to computers and internet access), and

are not left out on the street.

7. Support for agriculture workers and demand OSHA implement strict work safety requirements and ensure workers have adequate personal protection equipment.
8. Supporting expanded unemployment benefits for all workers, including undocumented workers.
9. Proper funding of the SBA Disaster Relief Program and PPP program while ensuring that Latino-owned businesses are not left out of the stimulus program.
10. Congress must adopt a minimum requirement in stimulus funding, as it does in its GSA Minority contracting, of at least 10% to minority / disadvantaged businesses.
11. ICE should release all minor detainees immediately without discretion.
12. ICE should release (on parole) all detainees who are older than 50, pregnant, or who have underlying conditions (weakened immune system, heart or lung disease). Those in detention who are especially vulnerable to contagious outbreaks should be released immediately.
13. ICE must stop all enforcement action and deportations including transport of minor detainees between detentions centers across the country.
14. Pharmaceutical and health insurance companies to waive or lower the costs and suspend co-pays for life-saving medicines and prescriptions.
15. Moratorium on mortgage, rent, student loans, credit card, and foreclosures without penalties.

1.

IMPACT ON LATINO AND MINORITY COMMUNITIES BY THE NUMBERS

Coronavirus death rate among Latinos appears to be low. The fact is we do not have the data necessary to draw any final conclusions since only a few states are reporting health data by ethnicity.

LULAC is calling on Federal and Local government to collect and report on ethnic data.

While the Latino community skews younger than the overall American population, it has significant risk factors including:

1. Living in larger households
2. Poor access to healthcare ²
3. Work providing “essential services”
4. Have underlying health conditions that makes them a large at-risk community (Diabetes, Obesity, and High Blood Pressure) ³
5. Are less likely to seek out medical assistance and only as a last resort ⁴

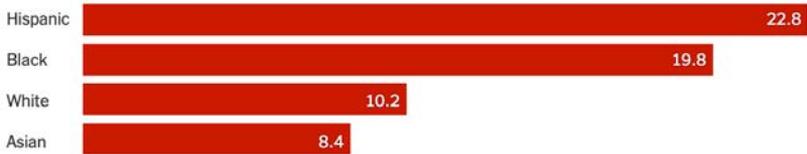
Even with these pre-conditions, many Latinos must choose between staying home and being safe or going to work and getting sick. In reality, none of us is safe unless all of us are safe.

We have all heard the numbers coming out of Chicago on the mortality rate of African Americans in that community. Now let's talk about some other equally important numbers.

On Wednesday, April 8, 2020, New York City announced that 779 people died of the virus (the second straight day of new highs). Coronavirus is killing black and Latino people in New York City at twice the rate of white people.⁵ Here is what we know about these numbers:

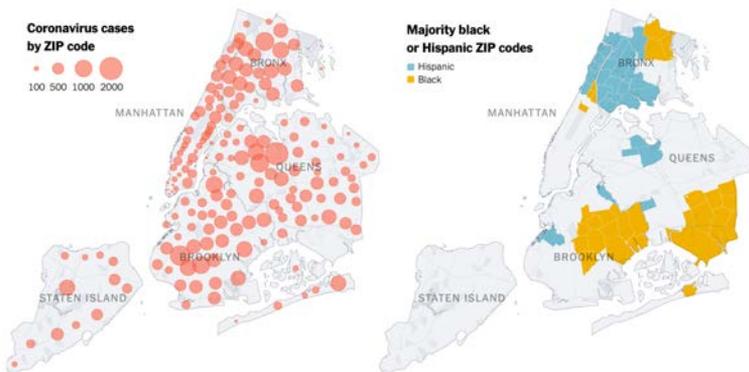
Coronavirus Deaths Per 100,000 People

In New York City, deaths from the coronavirus, adjusted for the size and age of the population, have disproportionately affected Hispanic and black people.



By The New York Times | Source: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The disparities reflect the the economic inequality and access to health care that Latinos and African Americans have suffered for generations.

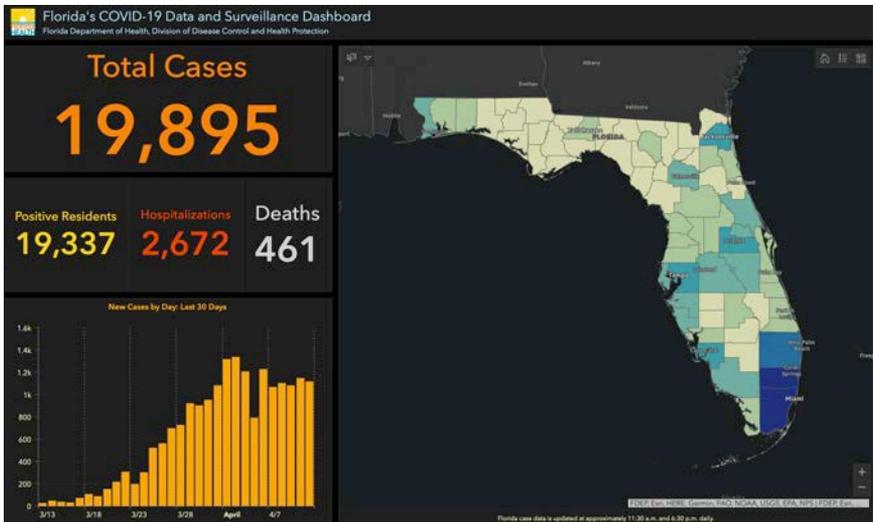


Sources: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; U.S. Census Bureau; socialexplorer.com - By The New York Times

In the meantime, the Florida Department of Health began releasing counts of positive cases of coronavirus in Hialeah, Florida:

Date	Cases	Variance	Lapsed Time
3/22/2020	9	0	0 Days
3/31/2020	234	+234	9 Days
4/5/2020	507	+264	5 Days
4/8/2020	597	+90	3 Days
4/12/2020	845	+257	4 Days

As of April 12, 2020, Hialeah had 854 confirmed cases, third-highest among all cities in Florida and more than Orlando, Tampa and St. Petersburg (three cities with larger populations).^{6,7}



Latinos contracted the virus as they lined up to apply for unemployment after the Florida Department of Labor crashed and the State moved to paper applications.^{8,9}





2.

LULAC PLAN FOR COMBATING RACIAL DISPARITIES IN THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO COVID-19

As we've seen, the coronavirus poses significant health risks and has exacted a grave toll on so many lives. As such, it's more important than ever that all of us follow the guidance of health experts and take the necessary precautions, including continuing to work from home, wherever possible, and practicing social distancing. By doing so, we also help to protect our loved ones, neighbors, and friends.

Unfortunately, the majority of Latinos do not have these same privileges. In fact, most Latino families have to choose between staying home and being safe or going to work and getting sick. Working from home is not an option for over 84% of Latinos. Working from home is not an option for the farmers, single moms and dads providing for their children, and the millions of low-wage earners living paycheck to paycheck.¹⁰

This is a trying period for all of us and as we navigate these challenging times together and make adjustments in our daily lives. It is also important that we advocate for Latino families and minority communities that lack fair and equal representation in Congress during these trying times.

This pandemic is having a devastating impact on the global and U.S. economies, and it's hitting businesses particularly hard. In a matter of weeks, we've seen widespread disruption across every sector of our economy starting with the restaurant, service, retail, and entertainment industry.

Since March 13, JPMorgan has revised its GDP estimates to negative-10 percent in the first quarter and negative-25 percent in the second.¹¹ Goldman Sach's growth projections have similarly plunged to negative-6 percent and negative-24.¹² While corporate earnings will bounce back more quickly, small businesses revenue and non-profit funding will lag far behind in the recovery.

Economists at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis projected that job losses from the coronavirus recession would reach 47 million and push America's unemployment rate to 32.1 percent — more than 7 points higher than its Great Depression—era peak.¹³ This means hard times and lean times are in all our futures. We know that Latinos will be disproportionately impacted by these job losses. Our community will lose much of the gains of the last decade of increasing wages and lower unemployment rates.

LULAC's mission is more important than ever and we all must focus and dedicate ourselves to ensuring that Latinos are fully represented in Congress. Let's move forward with the insight and understanding that we have one responsibility, to ensure the livelihood of every Latino for generations to come.

As we navigate through these uncharted waters, we're asking much of you and as always you will rise to the challenge. Your dedication and resilience during this difficult time are truly inspiring, and it gives us renewed confidence that we will come through this crisis even stronger than before as we have so many times in LULAC's great history.

PRIORITY 1: OUR HEALTH

Low income and minority communities will be disproportionately affected by coronavirus. It's also true that people with underlying health conditions are susceptible to contracting the disease and dying. Given the high rate of Latinos with chronic diseases (including diabetes, heart conditions, and asthma), it's likely a disproportionate number of Latinos could be affected as a result.

LULAC Action

1. Latinos need to be a part of the testing pool for new COVID-19 vaccines under development. Latino participation in medical trials is under representative of the population¹⁴.
2. Also, Latinos too, should be able to access emergency paid sick leave, expanded unemployment insurance and have equal access to COVID-19 testing.
3. Latinos need all critical information resources to be provided in English and Spanish immediately to the public. Delays in providing critical information can cost lives when a community is unaware of the risks and proper safety and medical information.
4. Congress needs to put in writing, then pass legislation that all men and women, including Latinos will receive free coronavirus testing and treatment.

PRIORITY 2: OUR CHILDREN

There must be emergency aid to help in the education, childcare, and school meal programs that many of our families need daily. The Department of Education should work to provide support to families from childcare to distance learning so our students do not fall behind in their education and the USDA should ease regulations to make meals available to Latino families in need.

LULAC Action

1. 22 million students depend on a free or reduced-price school lunch and almost 1-in-2 Latino children qualify.¹⁵ Our families depend on these school meals for their families. On top of that, one-and-a-half million people are homeless, with an estimated 1.4 million children ages 6 to 18 facing homelessness at some point during the school year.¹⁶
2. Latino students in redlined communities lag far behind in test scores nationally. We cannot allow the home schooling now in place to affect Latino students and allow them to fall further behind in their education as a result of this crisis.¹⁷
3. Congress must make sure our children do not go hungry, have the resources they need for home schooling (including access to computers and internet access), and are not left out on the street.

PRIORITY 3: OUR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

During these incredibly challenging times, we have seen the best of our medical professionals serving as first responders. By putting themselves at risk they have come together as a human shield for the care and safety of our society. We owe our health care workers a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

Of the 13.4 million total healthcare workers in America, Latinos make up 1.6 million of that workforce.¹⁸ Yet thousands of Latinos working on the same front lines are denied citizenship because of their immigration status. Today, 27,000 DACA recipients (1 in 4) are working tirelessly to provide the care that is needed in some of the hardest hit hospitals and cities across the country; some even working 37 hour shifts.¹⁹

It is time that the U.S. Congress recognize the invaluable contribution made by these hard working and committed professionals and every other essential worker that has kept working to ensure our health care system would not falter and that every American would have food on the table and the essentials needed to make it through the quarantine.

LULAC Action

1. LULAC Calls on Congress to immediately give all undocumented immigrants working as healthcare practitioners, technical occupations in the medical field, and essential workers immediate temporary protective status with a pathway to citizenship by the end of 2020.

PRIORITY 4: OUR LABOR FORCE

Communities of color are the last to get hired and first to get fired. Latinos will need to decide between going to work and getting paid or going to work and getting sick. This is not a choice that families should have to make.

Less than 1 in 6 Latino workers can work from home, that's only 16% of the Latino workers.²⁰ Latinos went from unskilled labor to essential workers overnight during the pandemic. From front line medical personnel, to stocking grocery stores, to delivering meals, or working on food production lines, Latinos are an essential part of our economy.

- Yet, 49% of Latinos have had a pay cut or been laid off or lost their job.²¹
- 33% of Non-Latinos have had a pay cut or been laid off or lost their job - a 16% differential.

LULAC Action

1. LULAC is supporting agriculture workers and pushing OSHA to implement strict work safety requirements and ensure workers have personal protective equipment.²²
2. LULAC is supporting expanded unemployment benefits for all workers including undocumented workers.²³
3. LULAC supports paid sick leave for anyone affected by COVID-19 and those who care for affected family members

PRIORITY 5: OUR ECONOMIC SURVIVAL

Latino families and Latino owned businesses need a stimulus that eases the short-term burden so they can continue to support their families and keep their businesses afloat. Special provisions should be made to ensure everyone, including Latinos, receive a fair share of funds and resources; this should be clearly written into any new legislation.

Latino owned companies with employees generate \$470 billion in revenue and employ 3.2 million people, accounting for 4% of U.S. business revenues and 5.5% of U.S. employment. Over the past 10 years, the number of Latino businesses grew 34%, compared to 1% for all other business owners.²⁴ Latinos are a driving force of the U.S. economy and we must do everything we can to ensure their future success.

LULAC Action

1. 28.5 million Latino workers will be affected. Our businesses are struggling to stay afloat. Millions of Latino-owned businesses will see their sales drop to zero and go out of business²⁵.
2. Congress must act to properly fund the SBA Disaster Relief Program and PPP program while ensuring that Latino owned businesses are not left out of the stimulus program.
3. Congress must adopt a minimum requirement in stimulus funding, as it does in its GSA Minority contracting, of at least 10% to minority / disadvantaged businesses.

PRIORITY 6: OUR DETAINED AND IMPRISONED

Every person in ICE Detention, who are non-violent, should be freed to stop the spread of the coronavirus immediately. We have seen other diseases get out of control in detention centers. In 2018, just five cases of the mumps exploded to nearly 900 cases among staff and detainees.²⁶

In Cook County Jail in Chicago, 251 detainees and 150 employees have contracted coronavirus. This is the single largest known source of infections in the United States. More than 1,000 inmates have been released since early March, but criminal justice advocates worry this is not enough.²⁷ This is a health disaster waiting to happen and when it starts it will be too late.

LULAC Action

1. ICE should release all minor detainees immediately without discretion.
2. ICE should release on parole all detainees who are older than 50, pregnant, or who have underlying conditions such as a weakened immune system or heart or lung disease. Those in detention who are especially vulnerable to contagious outbreaks should be released immediately.
3. ICE must stop all enforcement action and deportations including transport of minor detainees between detentions centers across the country.

PRIORITY 7: ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE AND PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE

Latinos communities are less likely to have medical insurance.²⁸ In Texas, which has the highest number of uninsured persons in the country, everyone should be covered for coronavirus care and treatment.

Latinos are facing the greatest threat to their health. It's even greater than others because the drug makers are making sky-high profits from our community's suffering --- diabetes, high-blood pressure, and heart disease.

LULAC Action

1. LULAC demands an expanded healthcare system that can provide much needed medical care for communities in need. Any healthcare option should ensure no person can be denied coverage due to any pre-existing medical conditions.
2. We need to have pharmaceutical and health insurance companies waive or lower the costs and suspend co-pays for these life-saving medicines and prescriptions, beginning with life saving insulin.
3. This is a time for the working-class, Latinos and all workers, to be included with other Americans forced to stay home and without losing their income.

PRIORITY 8: MORATORIUM ON MORTGAGE, RENT, STUDENT LOANS, AND FORECLOSURES WITHOUT PENALTIES

Latinos who are working by the hour are facing some of the hardest times since the recession in 2008. The interest rate has been cut to zero but that doesn't help Latino workers on minimum wage or working by the hour. This doesn't help the Latino business owner or our communities that need customers and steady revenue to survive every day.

LULAC Action

1. Lawmakers have already produced a deal to bail out corporate America. They now need to help Latinos and all workers affected by coronavirus and its impact on the economy.
2. LULAC is calling for a moratorium on mortgage, rent, student loads, and foreclosures without penalties.²⁹
3. Congress must act to protect the millions of Latinos that have been economically disadvantaged during this crisis, so they don't end-up in bankruptcy, evicted, and out on the street with no income or work.

FOOTNOTES

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