

## HEALTH

Latinos face barriers to healthcare, especially with high numbers of uninsured, a lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate healthcare professionals and services, and decreasing Federal support for programs that affect the health of our communities. NHLA strongly supports the Affordable Care Act (ACA) as well as leadership, policies, and programs that can improve the health of Latinos across the nation.

### PRINCIPAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

#### ACCESS TO QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

- Support and expand the ACA, and resist attempts to repeal it or to challenge it in court.
- Ensure that health insurance options are affordable.
- Enhance health insurance literacy programs.
- Eliminate the seasonal worker exemption under the employer mandate.
- Strengthen health insurance portability across state lines.
- Develop policies to increase healthcare coverage for immigrants.

#### HEALTHCARE DELIVERY REFORM

- Address the challenges facing economically and socially disadvantaged individuals.
- Require that healthcare delivery reform be inclusive of culturally competent and linguistically appropriate services.
- Focus on safety-net hospitals, clinics, and private medical practices.



#### MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

- Support and expand Medicare and Medicaid, and resist attempts to cut these benefits.
- Develop incentives for quality care for underserved populations.
- Encourage the collection of racial and ethnic identification in healthcare data.
- Ensure cultural and linguistic competency in health education, policies, and care facilities.
- Increase disease prevention programs that incorporate social determinants of health.
- Eliminate the five-year waiting period for legal residents to access Medicaid.
- Maintain the expansion of Medicaid to those up to 133 percent of the federal poverty line.
- Eliminate barriers to care for people in Puerto Rico.

## POPULATION HEALTH

- Encourage the participation of children and their families in programs to increase healthy nutrition and physical activity.
- Ensure Hispanic youth receive the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination.
- Ensure access to the full range of comprehensive reproductive healthcare.
- Promote child care and other policies that allow young parents and families to thrive, especially mothers.
- Provide LGBTQ Latinos coverage and access to care that is culturally competent.
- Address the needs of an aging population, including the particular needs of Hispanic elders.

## SMOKING AND VAPING

Develop and mandate programs about the harmful effects of smoking and vaping for schools and community organizations that target Hispanic students and their parents.

## OPIOIDS

- Work to eliminate racial inequity in access to prescription medicine.
- Create and fund an outreach program to racial minorities with mental illness and other diseases.

## COVID-19

- Ensure COVID-19 treatment, testing, and vaccines are affordable for all people within the United States.
- Develop the infrastructure within the public health system to support free or low-cost education, testing, and treatment for Latinos through partnerships with national and regional organizations.
- Create a Hispanic healthcare initiative that includes developing medical education, research, community outreach, public education, and financing testing, treatment, and vaccines.
- Create and enforce strong occupational safety standards to prevent and respond to job-related exposure to COVID-19, and provide support to businesses for implementation.
- Expand economic security measures for families, including those with undocumented immigrant family members, such as paid family and sick leave, unemployment compensation, healthcare access, cash assistance, child care programs, educational opportunities, nutrition programs, and premium pay for workers in essential sectors.

