



Translating Latino Research into Policy

Making Research Count

The Texas Latino Policy Symposium (TXLPS) and Latino Texas Policy Center (LTPC) will conduct the first “Making Research Count - Translating Latino Research into Policy” training on November 3 – 4, 2023, at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio. The TXLPS, LTPC, and other academic and community partners support the goal of translating Latino-focused research into public policy. The purpose is to inform equitable policymaking that increases economic mobility opportunities and improves Latino family *bienestar*.¹

The LTPC and academic and community partners will implement the first training on November 3-4, 2023, at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio.

The LTPC is a statewide 501©3 organization headquartered in San Antonio. Our **mission** is to create a collaborative environment to conduct research, policy analysis, and advocacy that informs policy decisions that improve the *bienestar* of Latino families. Our **Vision** is to strengthen Latino family *bienestar* (well-being) through research, communications, and organized action.

The training aims to increase applied policy research leadership and influence in public policy decision-making. The objectives are:

1. To increase the skill set of Latino researchers in policy brief development, messaging, and advocacy in the policymaking process.
2. To produce a Latino Policy Briefing report encompassing cross-issue human capital investment needs.
3. To increase the number of Latino leaders conducting policy research and advocacy.

Training Results:

1. Fifteen (15) Latino/a’s with increased skills to participate in policy research, analysis, and deploy results in the policymaking process(es).

¹ *Bienestar* is defined as a perceived quality of life status among individuals, families, and communities affected by social, environmental, and systemic factors. It also embodies social justice concerns, given the Latino experience with institutionalized racism, and harmful public policies.

2. Texas Latino Policy Briefing report that informs advocates and policymakers.
3. A Latino Policy Research Training Curriculum for recurring implementation to increase policy development leadership and influence.

LTPC believes that targeted research focused on the Latino population in Texas is critical to designing the types of public policies that will ensure our state is best situated for socio economic growth. We know the Latino population in Texas collectively have made significant contributions to the overall economic well-being of the state and with our projected continued growth our role will only grow. Therefore it is imperative to design policies that leverage the success of our population, its talent, and its resilience and commitment to achieve. To do this, we must also address any needs and barriers preventing growth and ensure that our policies reflect the type of Human Capital Investments.

Human Capital Policy Investments and Economic Mobility

Latinos are the majority population in Texas, and projections indicate continued growth. The economic mobility status of Latinos will increasingly define the state's overall economy. Population-related economic indicators include workforce and small business growth, public schools and higher education enrollment and graduations, home ownership, consumer buying power, and tax revenues.

The LTPC is a response to the absence of an independent policy research and advocacy ‘think-tank’ focused on Latino social and economic mobility concerns. State and local policymaking has a historical and ongoing effect on these population-related indicators. Its effects have often been unfair to Latino families impeding opportunities to achieve middle-class status, increase their financial assets and grow generational wealth.

Today, Latinos contribute significantly to the state’s economy. Between 2010 and 2019, they comprised 47.5% of the state’s population growth, and 66.7% are in the labor force compared to 64.1% of non-Latinos. In 2019, they earned \$213.7 billion in income and contributed \$32.6 billion and \$18.7 billion in federal, state, and local taxes, respectively. Their consumer spending power invested in local communities was \$162.4 billion.²

The preceding contribution to the state’s economy excludes revenues lost from the impact of political and policy barriers obstructing Latino and Black economic mobility. Eliminating inequities in income would strengthen families, communities, and local economies. It’s estimated that the state’s gross domestic product (GDP) in 2017 would have increased from \$1.84 to \$2.4 trillion if we eliminated racial gaps in income.³

“Addressing the barriers preventing Latinos from full economic participation could have a multitrillion-dollar impact, further unleashing their entrepreneurial spirit, creating millions of jobs, driving consumer spending, and building intergenerational wealth.”⁴

Notably, 53% of Texas Latino households are less than the economic middle class than 30% of Whites. Across Latino households of 1, 2, 3, and 4 family members, 72%, 53%, 49%, and 49% were less than middle class.⁵ This must change as Latinos are the future in education enrollments and workforce - of 5.4 million children in public school and 1.6 million in higher education enrollment in 2021-22, Latinos represented

² <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/power-of-the-purse-contributions-of-hispanic-texans/>

³ <https://nationalequityatlas.org/indicators/Racial-equity-in-income#/>

⁴ “The economic state of Latinos in America: The American dream deferred”, McKinsey & Company, December 2021.

⁵ American Community Survey, IPUMS 5-Year Estimates 2020

52.7% and 40%, respectively. At the same time, projections are for even more significant increases.

More about the Latino Texas Policy Center

We will combine policy research and collaboration with electoral and community advocates and establish communication strategies that frame, translate, and disseminate Latino policy priorities important to our communities. We aim to influence policy making toward human capital investments that lead to economic mobility opportunities, financial security, and wealth creation.

The results of the LTPC work will lead to increased:

- Latino community awareness and civic involvement in issues and needs important to them.
- Policymaking influence that reflects their values, perspectives, and priority concerns.
- Human capital investment (e.g., education, employment, economic development, health) breaks barriers and expands equal social and economic success opportunities.
- Generational *bienestar* improvements among individuals, families, and communities through achieving middle-class living standards.

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