

# UnidosUS in California

UnidosUS, formerly the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), is the nation's largest Latino\* civil rights and advocacy organization. Since our founding in 1968, we have contributed to a stronger America by elevating the voice of Latinos. Through a unique combination of research, advocacy, programs, and a national network of nearly 300 community-based Affiliate organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico, UnidosUS simultaneously challenges the social, economic, and political barriers affecting Latinos at the national and local levels.

Since 1984 UnidosUS has had an office in Los Angeles, and now has staff in Sacramento. UnidosUS works to advance opportunities for the more than 15 million Latinos who call California home.

## Landmark Policy Wins

**In California, our partnerships, community investments, research, and advocacy have resulted in major policy advances on financial stability, housing, and education.**

- Advocated for the passage of AB 540, so that undocumented students could have improved financial access to higher education, which was signed into law in 2001.
- As part of a coalition of state-based organizations, championed the passage of the California Homeowner Bill of Rights in 2012 to protect homeowners from predatory practices—such as dual tracking—that stripped Latino homeowners of their wealth following the Great Recession.<sup>1</sup>
- Supported legislation that created the CalSavers Retirement Savings Program in 2016 to provide a government-sponsored retirement savings option for workers who do not have access to an employer-sponsored plan,<sup>2</sup> and in 2019 published a roadmap for CalSavers stakeholders to reach Latino workers.<sup>3</sup>
- Championed the passage of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015, which included English language proficiency in states' accountability systems.<sup>4</sup>

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\* The terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout our materials to refer to persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, Spanish, and other Hispanic descent; they may be of any race. Our materials may also refer to this population as "Latinx" to represent the diversity of gender identities and expressions that are present in the community.

## Affiliate Network



The UnidosUS California-based Affiliates include 64 community-based organizations that play a critical role in providing the services needed to meet community needs, including education, wealth-building, workforce development, health, and immigration.

### For example:

- 21 charter schools
- 9 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
  - 9 VITA (Voluntary Income Tax Assistance) sites
  - 6 DOJ-recognized immigration legal service providers
  - 6 HUD-certified housing counseling agencies

- \$1.9 billion combined revenue
- 2.6 million Californians served annually
- 64 Affiliates in 25 Cities
- 15,900 staff

- ★ UnidosUS Regional Office
- UnidosUS Affiliate Partners

UnidosUS remains steadfast in our mission to realize a day when all Latinos thrive, and their contributions are fully recognized in California and throughout the nation.

For more information on UnidosUS, visit [www.unidosus.org](http://www.unidosus.org), or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

## Endnotes

- 1 National Council of La Raza, "NCLR's Legislative Victory to Save Homeowners from Foreclosure in California" (Video, July 16, 2013), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGHNaU4Fn-c> (accessed July 17, 2022).
- 2 Catherine Singley Harvey, *Enhancing Latino Retirement Readiness in California* (Washington, DC: National Council of La Raza, May 2015), <https://www.unidosus.org/publications/1148-enhancing-latino-retirement-readiness-in-california/> (accessed July 17, 2022).
- 3 Patricia Foxen and Stephanie Román, *CalSavers—California's State Retirement Savings Program: Promising Approaches for Engaging Latino Workers* (Washington, DC: UnidosUS, 2019), [https://www.unidosus.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/calsavers\\_retirementsavings\\_web.pdf](https://www.unidosus.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/calsavers_retirementsavings_web.pdf) (accessed July 17, 2022).
- 4 National Council of La Raza (NCLR), "Janet Murguía Testimony at ESSA Hearing: Full Remarks," *UnidosUS blog*, May 18, 2016, <https://www.unidosus.org/blog/2016/05/18/janet-murguia-testimony-essa-hearing-full-remarks/> (accessed July 17, 2022).