



An America Built to Last:
**PRESIDENT OBAMA'S AGENDA AND THE
HISPANIC COMMUNITY**

August 2012





President Obama believes we need to do more than recover from the recession. We need to restore security and opportunity for middle class Americans with the fundamental values that made our economy the strongest in the world – making sure everyone does their fair share and plays by the same rules, and hard work and responsibility are rewarded.

During the State of the Union Address, the President laid out a blueprint for an economy that's built to last – an economy built on **American manufacturing, American energy, skills for American workers, and a renewal of American values.**

The President stated clearly that, “we will not go back to an economy weakened by outsourcing, bad debt, and phony financial profits.” He believes this is a make or break moment for the middle class and Latinos who are trying to reach it. What is at stake is the very survival of the basic American promise that if you work hard, you can do well enough to raise a family, own a home, and put enough away for retirement.

The defining issue of our time is how to keep that promise alive. No challenge is more urgent; no debate is more important. We can either settle for a country where a shrinking number of people do really well, while more Americans barely get by. Or we can build a nation where everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same rules. At stake



right now are not Democratic or Republican values, but American values – and for the sake of our future, we have to reclaim them.

Latinos will continue to drive the growth of the labor force in the coming decades – as they will account for 60 percent of the Nation’s population growth between 2005 and 2050 – so how Latinos recover from this recession is of both immediate and long-term importance to our economy. However, according to the Pew Research Center, these same families also experienced a 66 percent decline in median wealth from 2005 to 2009.

Over the last three and a half years since taking office, the President and his Administration have worked to lay the groundwork for an America that is built to last, stopping the free-fall of the economy and working to restore the middle class. Every issue the President and this Administration take on is of vital importance to the Latino community: from promoting job creation, to making sure that every American has access to quality health care, to reforms that strengthen education for all Americans, to fighting for comprehensive immigration reform while standing up for the civil rights of all Americans.

To this end, the President has taken a series of steps to spur economic growth, put Americans back to work, and restore middle class security. As a result, over the last 29 months 4.5 million private sector jobs have been created putting Americans back to work and restoring economic security to Latino families struggling because of the economic crisis. And while still unacceptably high, the Hispanic unemployment has dropped to 10.3 percent from a high of more than 13 percent.

President Obama has also taken key steps to restore responsibility and accountability to our immigration system, and to work toward building a new 21st century immigration system that meets our Nation’s economic and security needs despite the failure of Congress to Act. As a part of these efforts, the President announced in June 2012 that the Department of Homeland Security would take steps to lift the shadow of deportation from children who were brought to this country as children who are low-enforcement priorities. This process is neither a path to citizenship nor is it a permanent fix—only Congress can provide that through comprehensive immigration reform, including passing the DREAM Act.

President Obama knows we need to do more than just recover from this economic crisis that has hit Latinos especially hard. We need to reclaim the lost security of middle class Americans by restoring the fundamental values that made our economy the strongest in the world – making sure everyone does their fair share, everyone gets a fair shot, and hard work and responsibility are rewarded. This President and this Administration have demonstrated time and again that, when we act together in common purpose and common effort, there is nothing the United States of America cannot achieve.



Summary of President Obama's Hispanic Agenda

Strengthening Our Economy: Jobs and economic security are central to Latino families. Getting Americans back to work and restoring economic security to families struggling because of the economic crisis is the President's top priority. He has taken a series of steps to spur economic growth, get Americans back to work and restore middle class security. The President is also directing investment toward American manufacturing, infrastructure, and American workers to ensure our workers are competitive in the global economy.

Ensuring Access to Quality Educational Opportunities for Hispanic Students: To compete in the 21st century, and to give our children the best possible chance to succeed, we must ensure that every student has access to quality educational opportunities from pre-K through college. The Administration has sparked landmark reforms in our education system by rewarding excellence and promoting innovation in states, school districts, and the classroom. President Obama's vision for education includes raising the bar for everyone across the education pipeline to ensure higher standards, quality teachers, and innovation that builds on what works in America's classrooms. It also means providing support to turn around the lowest performing schools, reduce dropout rates, and increase graduation rates so that every student can realize their full potential.

Fixing Our Broken Immigration System: An important part of rebuilding an economy that is based on the values of hard work, responsibility, and opportunity is making our immigration system functional, efficient, and accountable. President Obama recognizes that our current immigration system is broken and is deeply committed to building a 21st century immigration system that meets our Nation's economic and security needs. This includes advocating for the DREAM Act and Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

Prioritization of Immigration Enforcement: For the first time ever, immigration enforcement resources are being focused so that high-enforcement priorities, such as convicted criminals and those who pose a threat to public safety are prioritized for deportation. As a part of these efforts, the Department of Homeland Security announced in June 2012 that it would take steps to lift the shadow of deportation from children who were brought to this country, sometimes as infants. Under this announcement, certain young people who were brought to the United States as young children, do not present a risk to national security or public safety, and meet several key other criteria can request relief from deportation proceedings and apply for work authorization.

Ensuring Access to Affordable Health Care: This Administration has made great strides in giving Latinos—and all Americans—greater control over their health care. Latinos, who have the highest rates of un-insurance in the nation, are one of the groups that stand to benefit the most from the President signing the Affordable Care Act and reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) will, by 2014, make health care more accessible and affordable for as many as [9 million](#) Latinos who currently lack coverage.



Ensuring Affordable and Secure Homeownership: Owning your own home is at the heart of the American Dream. That is why the Administration has worked to address the foreclosure crisis and revitalize the communities hardest hit by foreclosures while supplementing programs that help Hispanics work toward buying their own home. Since January 2009, more than 250,000 Hispanic households have purchased a home using a Federal Housing Administration guaranteed mortgage. The Administration has also worked to ensure that rental and affordable housing is fair and non-discriminatory.

Investing in America's Infrastructure, Roads, and Public Transportation: The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) along with other Federal agencies are responsible for ensuring fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation systems that meet our daily needs while enhancing the quality of life of all Americans, today and into the future. According to the U.S. Census, Latinos are three times as likely to use public transportation to get to work compared to other Americans. DOT provides grants to support both urban and rural transportation services and through an interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities will promote comprehensive and integrated approaches to community development.

Building a More Secure Energy Future: The Obama Administration has taken critical steps toward ensuring that Latinos and all Americans are protected from air and water pollution and from toxic chemicals that harm their health. There are too many places in America today where the environmental, health, and economic burdens of pollution and exposure to chemicals fall disproportionately on poor and minority communities. This Administration has taken critical steps toward ensuring that Latinos and all Americans are protected from air and water pollution and from toxic chemicals that harm their health.

Protecting Civil Rights and Civil Liberties: The Obama Administration has taken unprecedented steps to ensure that our laws are enforced fairly and equitably. Federal agencies—from the Departments of Justice and Education to Housing and Urban Development to the Department of Agriculture—are working to strengthen their civil rights divisions to fight discrimination and enforce equal protection under the law. The Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division has grown more over the last two years than during any other point in our history, adding more than 100 new personnel, and new energy and vigor to the vital task of enforcing our nation's civil rights laws.

Honoring and serving our Veterans, Service Members, and Military Families: From the American Revolution to serving on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan, Hispanic service men and women play a major role in defending our nation. Approximately 213,965 Hispanics currently serve in the U.S. Armed Forces and according to the U.S. Census, an estimated 5.3 percent of our Nation's veterans are Hispanic – over 1.1 million Hispanic veterans have bravely served our nation. The Obama Administration's Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs have worked to ensure that we honor the service and sacrifice of our military and their families.



The Federal Government Better Reflects the Face of America: President Obama has named more Hispanics to top posts than any of his predecessors, drawing appointees from a wide range of the nation's Latino communities, including Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cuban-Americans, Dominican-Americans and Colombian-Americans, among others. The President appointed the first Hispanic to the Supreme Court, Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

A New Era of Partnerships in the Americas: President Obama has opened up a new era of partnership with our neighbors in the Americas. The President and his Administration have reached out to help tackle the challenges facing the people of the Americas today, including issues of energy, citizen security, and economic and social inclusion.

Obama Administration Reconstitutes the Task Force on Puerto Rico Status: On October 30, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13517, amending a Clinton Administration Executive Order to reinstate the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico Status (Task Force), which then convened in December 2009 with members from every Cabinet agency. President Obama directed the Task Force to maintain its focus on the status question, but added to the Task Force's responsibilities by seeking advice and recommendations on policies affecting Puerto Rico's economic development, including job creation, education, health care, and clean energy.

Recognizing Latino Heritage in America: Latinos have a rich history in the United States. For over 500 years, the Latino community has shaped what we can achieve and who we are as Americans. The Obama Administration wants to honor that heritage by helping to protect important landmarks and paying tribute to key individuals who have enriched America's history. The story of the American Latino must be told in a more complete and inclusive manner, showcasing Latino heritage as an American treasure and part of the full story of America.



Strengthening Our Economy and Restoring Economic Security to Hispanic Families:

Getting Americans back to work and restoring economic security to families struggling because of the economic crisis is the President's top priority. He has taken a series of steps to spur economic growth, get Americans back to work and restore middle class security. The President is also directing investment toward American manufacturing, infrastructure, and American workers to ensure our workers are competitive in the global economy.



President Obama delivers remarks at Port of Tampa-Ports America, Tampa, Florida, April 13, 2012. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

- **Putting Americans Back to Work and Helping Those Struggling Because of the Economic Crisis:** In 2009, President Obama signed the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act \(ARRA\)](#), creating jobs, spurring economic growth, and investing in our communities. The Recovery Act has been vital to the Hispanic community, especially because Hispanics are experiencing higher rates of unemployment than the national average. A report from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office showed that the Recovery Act increased the number of people employed by as many as 3.5 million as of the end of 2010. According to a [study](#) released by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, policies in the Recovery Act, including tax cuts for working families and improvements in unemployment insurance, combined to keep over **2 million Hispanics out of poverty in 2010**.
- **Providing Tax Relief for Hispanic Families:** In December 2010, the President passed a bipartisan tax cut agreement that not only secured vital tax relief and investments for our workers—creating jobs and accelerating economic growth—but also provided specific



support for Hispanic families. Building off the Recovery Act, the tax agreement extended key provisions including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) that directly benefit an estimated 3.7 million Hispanic families, including 8 million Hispanic children. The president also signed into law 18 direct tax breaks to bolster small business growth.

- **Taking Action to Strengthen the Recovery:** The President fought to continue the payroll tax cut into 2012, ensuring that taxes do not go up on nearly 25 million Hispanic workers, and to extend unemployment insurance so that Americans looking for work do not lose this crucial support. In addition, the President put forward a broader jobs package that would cut taxes for small businesses, put teachers and first responders back on the job, help the unemployed get back to work, and rebuild our infrastructure.
- **Helping Small Businesses Hire Workers:** The President signed the [Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment \(HIRE\) Act](#) into law, providing tax incentives for small businesses and non-profits—both with significant track records in hiring Latino workers—to start hiring as soon as possible. The president also signed into law 18 direct tax breaks to bolster small business growth.
- **Transforming Communities and Young People through National Service:** The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) plays a vital role in supporting the American culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility. Each year, CNCS and the network it supports engages millions of Americans in results-driven service through partnerships with 70,000 community and faith-based organizations. CNCS taps the power of citizens to improve lives, solve problems, strengthen communities, and build the capacity of the nonprofit sector, through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, the Social Innovation Fund, United We Serve, and other programs. The AmeriCorps program is particularly beneficial to young Latinos as it provides an education award of up to \$5,350 at the completion of service. In addition, the agency has increased strategic outreach to Hispanic communities, for example, through the award of a grant to the Cesar Chavez Foundation to engage communities on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. The agency continues to seek ways to provide information and opportunities that support Latinos and all Americans in serving their communities. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov.





[Expanding Access to Capital, Counseling, and Federal Contracting for Latino Businesses:](#)

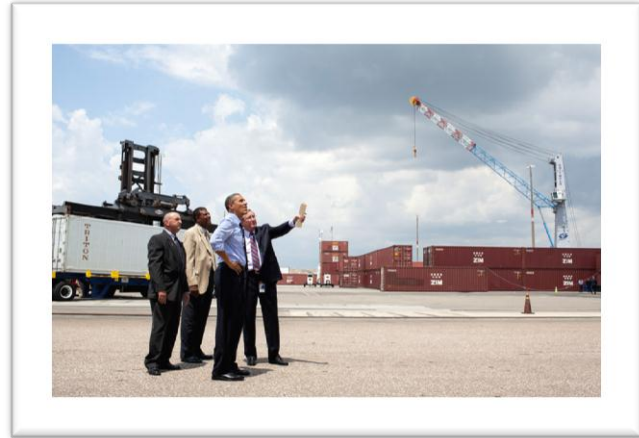
There are more than 2.3 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the US, employing 1.9 million people. Due to their unique assets and language skills, Hispanic-owned businesses are more likely to be exporters compared to non-minority firms. Among firms generating 20% or more of their sales in exports in 2007, Hispanic firms (2.4%) were twice as likely to export compared to non-

minority firms (1.1%). Supporting these small businesses helps ensure that America's economy remains globally competitive for the 21st Century. The White House launched an interagency initiative to increase contracting with small businesses. More than 20 Cabinet and Senate-confirmed Administration officials have participated in 20 small business matchmaking events around the country. These events have helped more than 10,000 small, minority- and women-owned businesses by promoting access to capital and removing barriers for Federal government contracting opportunities.

- **Expanding Access to Capital.** President Obama has helped businesses owned by Hispanic Americans by cutting taxes for small businesses and helping them get the loans they need to grow and hire. Since the start of the Administration through March 31, 2012, over \$3.8 billion through over 10,800 SBA loans went to Hispanic-owned small businesses including over \$128 million through nearly 300 international trade loans.
- **Expanding Access to Federal Contracting.** For many small businesses, winning a federal government contract is an opportunity to build capacity and grow their business. SBA works with federal agencies to provide increased opportunities for Hispanic-owned small businesses to compete for and win federal contracts. Since January 2009, Hispanic-owned small businesses have won over \$29 billion in federal contracts.
- **Helping Small Businesses Create Jobs:** In October 2011, President Obama directed agencies to take steps to [speed up the transfer of Federal research](#) from the laboratories to the marketplace. The Obama Administration also directed the creation of [BusinessUSA](#), a virtual one-stop shop for small businesses and exporters that reduces the complexity of interactions with the federal government with a “no wrong door” approach. This cross-agency effort ensures that small businesses and exporters find what they need quickly and get consistent information regardless of where they begin their search. This initiative will help the thousands of Latino small business owners doing business with the Federal Government expand their growth opportunities into new and emerging markets.



- **Launching the First in the Nation Federal Procurement Center for Minority-Owned Businesses.** In direct response to the nation's minority-owned business community and the White House initiative to promote greater government contracting among minority-owned businesses, Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)



launched the Federal Procurement Center (FPC) in Washington, DC. The FPC is the first specialty business center in the nation that assists minority-owned firms in competing for and winning federal government contracts. Services include information on federal regulations and contracting requirements and facilitation of relationships between minority-owned businesses and federal program managers.

- **Helping Minority Businesses Prosper and Grow.** During FY2011, MBDA successfully launched a newly designed MBDA Business Center program. The new integrated and nationally focused program combined the traditional Minority Business Enterprise Center (MBEC) and Minority Business Opportunity Center (MBOC) programs into one program. Significant changes to the program included the elimination of geographic borders, allowing business centers to provide services to minority-owned businesses anywhere in the country and increased funding. Additional changes included longer funding terms, reduced paperwork burdens, the addition of merger, acquisition, and joint venture and strategic partnering support, coupled with enhanced export services. In FY2011, MBDA launched new business centers in Boston, Cleveland, Denver, Minneapolis, Anchorage, Riverside (California), and a specialty center in Washington, DC. Each new center hosted a kick-off event attended by the leadership of MBDA, business center leaders, state and local government officials, community stakeholders, and minority business owners.
- **Partnering with Latino Business Organizations.** SBA has joined forces with the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) to help support thousands of Hispanic small businesses and entrepreneurs grow and create more jobs. Through this collaboration, the SBA and USHCC are working with national and local Hispanic organizations to increase Hispanic-owned small business participation in SBA programs. The goal of the partnership is to increase lending to Hispanic small businesses; increase awareness of SBA programs and services among Hispanic-owned small businesses; increase



participation of small Hispanic-owned businesses in SBA's procurement programs, with a focus on women and veterans; and increase trade opportunities for small Hispanic-owned businesses.

Creating Job Opportunities and Protecting Workers: This Administration has been deeply committed to improving the lives of Latino workers and their families, and ensuring that all communities, including Latinos, have access to good jobs. Hispanics will continue to drive the growth of the labor force, given that they will account for 60 percent of the nation's total population growth between 2005 and 2050. For the first time in U.S. history, we have a Latina leading the U.S. Department of Labor, Secretary Hilda L. Solis.



- **Partnering with Businesses to Build Americans' Skills:** Last year, the Obama Administration helped launch *Skills for America's Future*, an industry-led initiative to improve industry partnerships with community colleges and build a nationwide network to maximize workforce development strategies, job training programs, and job placements. Through this initiative the President announced a new partnership of private sector employers, community colleges, and the National Association of Manufacturers to provide 500,000 community college students with industry-recognized credentials that will help them secure jobs in the manufacturing sector.



- **Providing Training for Latino Workers:** In addition, the Department of Labor supports nearly 3,000 career centers across the nation, known as “[American Job Centers](#)”, providing thousands of unemployed and underemployed workers with counseling and services to assist them with their transition back to work. 11 percent of the nearly 3 million Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult and Dislocated Worker program participants who received staff-assisted services from October 2010 through September 2011 were Latino. Of those Latinos who exited the WIA Adult program in calendar year 2010 and were unemployed when they entered the program, nearly 60 percent or 77,000 began employment within the quarter after their exit. Of those Latinos who exited the WIA Dislocated Worker program in calendar year 2010 and were unemployed when they entered the program, about 57 percent, or 51,000, began employment within the quarter after their exiting the program. The Department also offers training and employment services through the Wagner-Peyser program: roughly 3.3 million Latinos were served in program year 2010, representing about 16.7 percent of all participants.



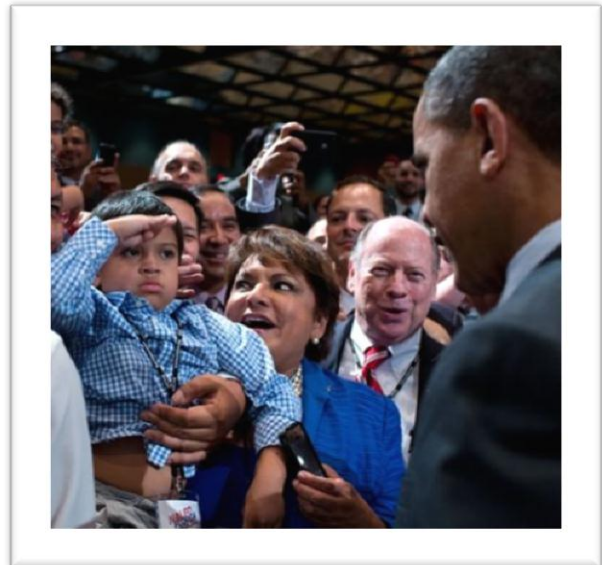
- **Investing in Community College-led Job Training:** The Obama Administration has made historic investments in community colleges, which provide a linchpin for 21st century workforce training. The Obama Administration has already invested \$500 million through the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training initiative to support partnerships among community colleges, employers, and Workforce Investment Boards to develop programs that provide pathways for individuals negatively impacted by trade to secure quality jobs in high wage, high skilled fields including advanced manufacturing, transportation, health care, and STEM. The Administration will invest an additional \$1.5 billion in this initiative over the next three years.



- **Improving Employment Opportunities for Latino Youth** : Programs such as the Department’s JobCorps and YouthBuild programs are designed to provide job training and educational opportunities for low-income or disconnected youth ages 16 to 24. There are 4,250 Latinos enrolled in YouthBuild and 7,637 Latinos enrolled in Job Corps, representing approximately 18

percent of participants in each program. More than 64 percent of Latino youth separating from Job Corps in program year 2010 were graduates who received their GED – more than two percent higher than the national high school graduation rate.

- **Summer Jobs+ for Youth in 2012:** In January 2012, the Obama Administration launched [Summer Jobs+](#), a new call to action challenging businesses, non-profits, and government to work together to provide pathways to employment for low-income and disconnected youth in the summer of 2012. The Obama Administration secured commitments for 300,000 employment opportunities. These opportunities include 100,000 paid jobs and thousands of mentorships, internships and other training opportunities. This will help the more than 20 percent of Latino youth between the ages of 16-24 that were unable to attain summer employment in 2011.
- **Protecting Latino Workers on the Job:** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Hispanic/Latino workers have the highest fatality rate in the workplace as compared to other ethnic groups. For the first time in history, the Labor Department held a National Action Summit for Latino workers, bringing together nearly 1,000 employers and employees at a bilingual conference to educate them on workers’ safety and rights.
- **Extending Minimum Wage and Overtime Protections:** In December 2011, President Obama announced new proposed rules to provide [minimum wage and overtime protections](#) for nearly two million workers who provide in-home care services for the elderly. This rule will help Latinos that make up 12 percent of the in-home care services workforce.





- **Fighting Pay Discrimination:** The first piece of legislation President Obama signed into law was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which restored basic protections against pay discrimination. The President continues to advocate for the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, which is common sense legislation that gives workers the tools they need to fight pay discrimination. And President Obama has convened an Equal Pay Task Force to ensure that existing equal pay laws are fully enforced. Through this Task Force, key agencies in the Federal Government are coordinating and enhancing their efforts to protect workers from pay discrimination.

Protecting Families from Financial Abuses, Hidden Fees, and Deceptive Practices: Too many responsible Latinos have paid the price for an outdated regulatory system that left families without adequate protections against financial abuses and deceptive practices. That is why President Obama overcame a furious lobbying campaign by big banks to pass the most far reaching Wall Street reform in history, which created the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), to prevent mortgage companies, credit card lenders and pay day loan companies from exploiting consumers with hidden fees, penalties and other deceptive practices. The CFPB is also charged with enforcing fair lending laws that protect Hispanics from discriminatory lending practices, establishing a consumer response center to register [mortgage](#) and [credit card](#) complaints. President Obama also put in place the most sweeping credit card protections in history which protect ordinary Americans from unfair rate increases and hidden fees and penalties.

- **Fighting to Protect Consumers:** In January 2012, the President recess appointed Richard Cordray as the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to ensure that the Latino community is not subject to predatory lending practices and the kinds of economic abuse that was at the root of our housing and economic crisis. The President [signed the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure \(CARD\) Act](#) to protect Latinos and all Americans from unfair and deceptive credit card practices and to ensure that Latinos have access to credit and basic financial services so they have the information they need to make the decisions that work best for them. The President also [signed the Wall Street Reform bill](#) that will protect consumers and our entire economy from the recklessness and irresponsibility that led to the worst recession since the Great Depression. Latino leaders have called this a “Major Victory for Latino Families” by protecting against abusive financial products and services, and creating greater access to safe and affordable bank accounts and credit. It will guard consumers from predatory practices by banks, mortgage brokers, payday lenders, remittance providers, and other financial institutions.
- **Helping Homeowners and Strengthening the Housing Market:** On February 9, 2012 the Federal Government and 49 state attorneys general announced a landmark agreement of at least \$25 billion with the nation’s five largest mortgage servicers – Bank of America, JP Morgan, Citigroup, Wells Fargo, and Ally Financial – to address mortgage loan servicing and foreclosure abuses. This historic agreement was good news for the



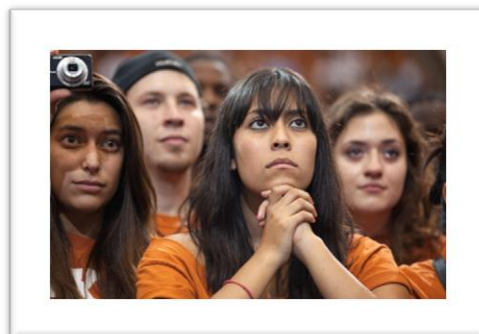
housing market and good news for homeowners all across the country. The agreement represents the largest federal-state civil settlement ever agreed to that provides substantial financial relief to homeowners while establishing new homeowner protections for the future.

- **Making International Money Transfers Transparent and Reliable:** On January 20, 2012, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau adopted new consumer protections for [international money transfers](#) that make the costs clear, upfront, and hold companies accountable for errors. Consumers, especially Latinos, in the United States send billions of dollars of international money transfers – or “remittances” – each year. In 2009, immigrants from Mexico wired approximately \$22.87 billion in remittances, and spent an estimated \$1.5 billion in fees and other costs in performing these transactions. With little to no oversight, consumers had virtually no protection to ensure that the remittance process was fair and transparent. The Bureau’s new rule, which applies to most money transfers over \$15, requires remittance providers to disclose costs upfront and fix errors they make. These requirements apply generally to most companies that offer such transfers, including banks, thrifts, credit unions, and money transmitters. The rule will take full effect in January 2013.

Ensuring Access to Quality Educational Opportunities for Hispanic Students:

To compete in the 21st century, and to give our children the best possible chance to succeed, we must ensure that every student has access to quality educational opportunities from pre-K through college. Over this coming decade, employment in jobs requiring education beyond a high school diploma will continue to grow more rapidly than employment in jobs that do not, yet dropout rates among the Latino community remain disproportionately high. According to the Alliance for Excellence in Education, only 56 percent of Latino students graduate on time from our nation’s high schools, compared to 77 percent of the white student population. . The quality of our math and science education lags behind other countries, and America has fallen from 1st to 16th in college completion.

The Administration has sparked landmark reforms in our education system by rewarding excellence and promoting innovation in states, school district, and the classroom. President Obama’s vision for education includes raising the bar for everyone across the education pipeline to ensure higher standards, quality teachers, and innovation that builds on what works in America’s classrooms. It also means providing support to turn around the lowest performing schools, reduce dropout rates, and increase graduation rates so that every student can realize their full potential.





- **Providing Quality Education from Cradle to Career:**

President Obama signed an Executive Order renewing the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, to expand educational opportunities and improve outcomes for Hispanics of all ages, to ensure that Hispanic students receive a complete and competitive education that prepares them for college and career. In July



2009, the President issued a challenge to the country to reform our schools through the [Race to the Top](#) program. The President has dedicated more than \$4 billion to reward eligible states who create incentives for improvement in four areas of key areas: adopting rigorous standards and assessments, recruiting and retaining high quality teachers and principals, turning around low-performing schools, and establishing data systems to track student achievement and teacher effectiveness. 46 states and the District of Columbia submitted comprehensive reform plans to compete in the K-12 Race to the Top competition, and of these applicants, 19 states (serving 22 million students) received funding. Collectively, these K12 Race to the Top states represent nearly one-third of all Latinos enrolled in America's public schools.

- **Raising Standards and Fixing No Child Left Behind:** As states are working to improve education, some provisions of No Child Left Behind impose unintended consequences that stand in the way of progress. While adhering to the core value of equal opportunity for all students, the Administration has offered states flexibility from some of the more restrictive elements of the law while demanding accountability and reform in our schools that will benefit all students, including our nation's English language learners, as authorized by waiver provisions contained within the law itself. Thirty-three states and the District of Columbia have already requested – and been awarded – this flexibility, in exchange for continuing with significant reforms. This flexibility will maintain a high bar for the success of all students, while enabling states, schools, and teachers to ensure that America's students graduate with the knowledge and skills they need to compete for the jobs of the new economy,
- **Investing in Our Lowest-Performing Schools:** The Obama Administration has made critical investments in reforms to strengthen elementary and secondary education at the individual school level, by dedicating more than \$4 billion in [School Improvement Grants](#) for states and districts to implement bold reforms that is already providing funding and support to transform more than 1,300 of the lowest-performing schools in America.



These investments will help courageous principals and teachers succeed in the difficult challenge of turning around some of our hardest to serve schools, and ensure that students in these schools finally have a safe and engaging learning environment where they can thrive.

- **Creating Promise Neighborhoods:** In December 2011, the U.S. Department of Education announced \$30 million in awards to 20 winners of the 2011 [Promise Neighborhoods](#) grants competition. In addition to 15 planning grants to help communities plot out future Promise Neighborhoods, included in the 2011 awardees were five larger implementation grants ranging between \$1.5 and \$6 million. The Promise Neighborhoods program, modeled after successful programs such as the Harlem Children's Zone, is an education and community-based model that seeks to break the cycle of poverty in low-income communities by coordinating the efforts of schools, early childhood centers, health care, and other community services. The vision of the program is to ensure that all children and youth growing up in Promise Neighborhoods have access to great schools and strong systems of family and community support that will prepare them to attain an excellent education and successfully transition to college and a career.



- **Incentivizing Reform and Rewarding Best Practices in Early Learning:** Hispanic children represent the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. young child population under the age of five. As such, they benefit greatly from new investments and reforms that ensure greater access to high-quality early learning and development programs. Starting with the Recovery Act, the President invested more than \$5 billion in federal early education programs, including in programs such as Head Start. This made it possible for 61,000 additional children, more than 20,000 of whom are Latino, to benefit from a high-quality preschool education. In addition, the Administration's new investment in the [Race to the Top: Early Learning Challenge Fund](#) is challenging states to raise the quality of early education by bringing innovation to early education reform efforts and focusing on activities that will lead to higher program standards across all programs serving children birth to five with the goal of ensuring all children are prepared for kindergarten. Through the first competition, 35 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico created plans to increase access to high-quality programs for children from low-income families, and nine States were awarded \$500 million in Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge funds, including California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island and Washington state. In



the 2012 competition, five additional states will be eligible to compete for \$133 million to implement their plans to comprehensively improve early learning and development programs statewide.

- **Ensuring Equal Educational Opportunities for English Language Learner Students:** The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) entered into a voluntary agreement with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) on October 11, 2011, resolving the first proactive civil rights enforcement by the Department under the Obama Administration. [The agreement](#) concluded an OCR investigation launched in March 2010 under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act that focused, in part, on the educational opportunities of English Language Learner (ELL) students. On March 25, 2011, the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division and OCR entered into a voluntary agreement with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to ensure that Arizona’s ELL students receive the education services they need. [This agreement](#) requires ADE to revoke its one-question Home Language Survey (HLS), which failed to identify and serve all eligible ELL students, a violation of the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Departments also determined that the teacher referral process for the one-question HLS unnecessarily delayed the identification of ELL students, therefore delaying ELL services another violation of both laws. The Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division and the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights reached a [third settlement agreement](#) with the Boston Public Schools in April, 2012 that ensures that English Language Learner (ELL) students will no longer be denied language support services based on a system that did not accurately assess or provide for their language needs. In their investigation, the Departments in 2010 identified more than 4,000 students who were inappropriately characterized as having “opted out” of ELL services and approximately 4,300 students who were improperly identified as non-ELL students. Under the agreement, all such students will now be offered ELL services and, where appropriate, compensatory services.
- **Helping Students Pay for College:** The Obama Administration has raised the maximum Pell Grant award to \$5,635 for the 2013-14 school year – a \$905 increase since 2008 – and has provided resources to support an additional three million Pell Grant recipients – a 50 percent increase in students served since 2008. These increases in Pell Grants were paid for by ending subsidies to banks serving as middle-men in the student loan system. More than 150,000 Hispanic students stand to benefit from these increases.
- **Making College Loans More Affordable for Latino Students:** As an important part of keeping the American Promise alive, the President has called for a comprehensive approach to curbing rising college costs. In today’s global economy, postsecondary education or training is no longer just a privilege for some, but rather a prerequisite for all. To again lead the world with the highest share of college graduates by the year 2020, we must make college more affordable. The Obama Administration’s “Pay as You Earn” plan enables responsible borrowers to cap student loan payments at 10 percent of their



monthly discretionary income and 1.6 million borrowers will be able to avail themselves of this option by the end of this year. And the President issued a memorandum in June to streamline the income-based repayment application process for borrowers and improve online tools for students to understand and manage their loan debt. Borrowers looking to determine whether or not income-based repayment is the right option for them should visit www.studentaid.gov.

- **Strengthening Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) and Community Colleges:** The student loan reform bill signed by President Obama provided \$2.55 billion over ten years to MSIs, and \$2 billion for community colleges to improve education and career training programs. The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act also strengthens Hispanic-Serving Institutions, a public or private nonprofit college or university with a student body that is at least 25 percent Latino, by investing more than \$1 billion in these institutions over the next decade. More than half of America's Hispanic and Latino undergraduates attend a Hispanic-Serving Institution. Hispanic-Serving Institutions serve a higher proportion of low- and middle-income students than their counterparts.
- **Investing in Community Colleges:** President Obama announced the [American Graduation Initiative in 2009](#), a historic initiative to strengthen our nation's community colleges, and called for five million additional graduates by 2020. This initiative proposed to invest \$2 billion in two-year schools where many Hispanic students earn their first college degree, receive job training to increase their skills, or prepare to attend a four-year institution. Congress passed and funded a similar initiative - the Trade



Adjustment Assistance
Community College and
Career Training
(TAACCCT) Grants
Program - which provides
community colleges and
other eligible institutions of
higher education with funds
to expand and improve
their ability to deliver
education and career
training programs that can
be completed in two years
or less, are suited for
workers who are eligible
for training under the TAA
for Workers program, and

prepare program participants for employment in high-wage, high-skill occupations. The initial round of grants, \$500 million to fund 49 awards and partnerships, was awarded in



September 2011. The next round of another \$500 million in awards will be released in September 2012.

- **Paying It Forward Through International Service Opportunities:** The Peace Corps has developed formal partnerships with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) to help inform Hispanic students about volunteer, career, and educational opportunities available through the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps is also working closely with the National Council of La Raza “Lideres” program to advance international service opportunities and has partnered with both City Year and Teach for America (TFA) to promote public engagement. This partnership with City Year and TFA has taken these organizations to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute and the US Hispanic Leadership Institute to encourage participation in service opportunities. Peace Corps regional recruitment offices prioritize outreach to Hispanic Serving Institutions and other institutions of higher education with diverse populations. As a result of these efforts, Hispanics have become the largest ethnic minority group in the Peace Corps Volunteer community.

Fixing Our Nation’s Broken Immigration System: President Obama believes we need to do more than recover from the recession. We need to restore security and opportunity for middle class Americans with the fundamental values that made our economy the strongest in the world – making sure everyone does their fair share and plays by the same rules, and hard work and responsibility are rewarded. An important part of rebuilding our economy with these values is making our immigration system functional, efficient, and accountable. President Obama recognizes that our current immigration system is broken and is deeply committed to building a 21st century immigration system that meets our Nation’s economic and security needs. The Obama Administration’s efforts on immigration include:

- **Building a 21st Century Immigration System:** President Obama has consistently pressed for passage of comprehensive immigration reform, including the DREAM Act, because he believes these steps are critical to building a 21st century immigration system that meets our nation’s economic and security needs.





- **Advocating for Comprehensive Immigration Reform:** The Administration is working to build bipartisan support for immigration reform and the President has consistently advocated for legislative reforms since he was sworn into office. The President has regularly spoken out about the need to pass immigration reform and has met with Congressional leaders; state and local elected officials; business, faith, labor, and immigrant advocates; and others to enlist their support in building a national dialogue in support of comprehensive reform. The Obama Administration has provided technical assistance to bill drafters in crafting legislation, and has published an immigration blueprint, [*Building a 21st Century Immigration System*](#), that details the economic imperative for immigration reform, outlines the President's vision for reform, and calls for a more civil and constructive debate. It also documents the progress the Administration has made in improving our immigration system, streamlining processes, and strengthening enforcement and border security. There are real economic benefits to comprehensive immigration reform. For example, it would boost GDP by more than 1 percentage point, and this Administration continues to make that case to the American people.
- **Working to Pass the DREAM Act:** The Administration strongly supported efforts in 2010 to pass the DREAM Act as a first step toward comprehensive immigration reform. The DREAM Act would create a rigorous process for undocumented young



people who were brought to the country through no fault of their own at a young age, to earn permanent residency if they meet several requirements, including serving in the U.S. military or pursuing higher education. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the DREAM Act as approved in the House in December 2010 would have cut the deficit by \$2.2 billion over the ten years. With leadership

from President Obama, the DREAM Act passed out of the U.S. House of Representatives with bipartisan support in 2010. Senate Republicans, however, blocked its passage, despite the fact that Republicans helped write the bill a decade earlier.

- **Continuing the Conversation on the Need for Comprehensive Immigration Reform:** The President has also convened leaders from a broad range of sectors including business, faith, law enforcement, and labor, and stakeholders from diverse demographics calling on them to add their voices to a nationwide movement to create



the space for Congress to act in a bipartisan manner for the type of reform that is necessary. Already average Americans, elected officials, business leaders, and others are beginning to hold events across the country to bring attention to the need for comprehensive reform, and to elevate the debate to focus on the facts and move past the extremes and false debates that have for too long dominated this issue. You can add your voice to this nationwide movement at www.whitehouse.gov/immigrationaction.

- **Protecting Victims of Crimes and Abuse:** In March 2010, the Department of Labor announced it will begin to exercise its authority to certify applications for U nonimmigrant status (U visas). These visas are designed to help victims of qualifying criminal activities who have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse and are willing to assist law enforcement or other government officials in the investigation or prosecution of those crimes. The protocols regarding the identification of qualifying criminal activities and the certification of U visa applications were announced in April 2011. The Administration has also called for an increase in the annual numbers of U visas available, in its annual budget requests, and more recently, as a part of bipartisan legislative efforts in the U.S. Senate to [reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act](#) (VAWA).
- **Protections for Farm Workers and Their Families:** By rewriting the regulations that govern the H-2A temporary agricultural program, the Department of Labor has strengthened worker protections and requirements for employers who are looking to bring non-immigrant foreign workers to the U.S. to perform agricultural labor or services of a temporary or seasonal nature. Through this effort the Department has ensured that the H-2A temporary agricultural program is only available to employers with a legitimate temporary need for non-immigrant workers. The Department must certify that no American workers are available for the job, that all farm workers are paid a fair and competitive wage, and that employers are providing humane and safe living conditions for all domestic and legal migrant farm workers. In doing so, the Department not only protects foreign farm workers from exploitation, but also protects similarly employed domestic workers from adverse effects on wages and working conditions.





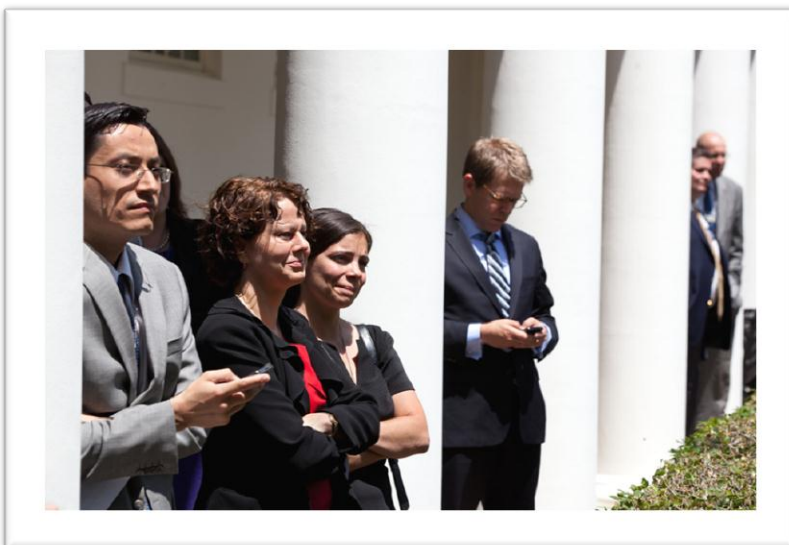
- **Improving Immigration Enforcement:** The Obama Administration has taken steps to improve enforcement of our immigration laws by prioritizing public safety in enforcement actions, strengthening our borders and reforming our immigration detention system.

- **Maximizing Public Safety and Better Focusing Resources in Immigration Enforcement:** As the President continues to focus on building a 21st century immigration system, he has a responsibility to enforce the existing laws in a smart, effective manner. For the first time ever, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has set clear enforcement priorities so that individuals who are a threat to our public safety and national security, such as convicted criminals, are the highest enforcement priority. DHS has also issued guidance to law enforcement personnel and attorney regarding their authority to exercise prosecutorial discretion where appropriate to ensure greater consistency in the treatment of individuals who do not fit within their enforcement priorities. In addition, DHS is targeting their resources to review, on a case-by-case basis, deportation cases pending before the immigration courts in order to focus on the highest enforcement priorities and clear out the backlog of low-priority cases. In 2011, nearly 55 percent or 216,698 of the people removed were convicted of felonies or misdemeanors – an 89 percent increase in the removal of criminals since 2008.

- **Establishing Deferred Action Process for Young People Who Are Low Enforcement Priorities:**

In June 2012, [DHS announced](#) that certain young people who were brought to the U.S. as young children, do not present a risk to national security or public safety, and meet several key criteria will be

considered for relief from deportation from the country or from entering into removal proceedings. Those who demonstrate they [meet the criteria will be eligible](#) to receive deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal, and will be eligible to apply for work authorization. It makes no sense to expel talented young people who want to staff our labs, start new businesses, and contribute to our country simply because of the actions of their parents.





- **Implementing a New Worksite Enforcement Strategy:** The Administration launched a new worksite enforcement strategy that, rather than punishing workers, is designed to target and penalize employers who knowingly hire illegal workers and who are involved in related crimes such as trafficking, smuggling, harboring,

document fraud, and money laundering. Since January 2009, DHS has audited more than 4,600 employers suspected of hiring illegal labor, debarred hundreds of unscrupulous employers, and issued and collected record amounts of fines.

- **Dedicating Unprecedented Resources to Secure the Border:** The Administration has devoted an unprecedented amount of resources, personnel, and technology to secure the border. Today, the Border Patrol is better staffed than ever before, having doubled the number of agents from approximately 10,000 in 2004 to more than 21,000 in 2011. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the investigative arm of DHS, has increased the number of Federal agents deployed on the Southwest border. For the first time, DHS unmanned aerial capabilities now cover the entire Southwest border from California to Texas, providing critical aerial surveillance assistance to personnel on the ground. DHS has also completed 649 miles of fencing out of nearly 652 miles planned. Apprehensions of illegal aliens decreased from nearly 724,000 in FY 2008 to approximately 340,000 in FY 2011, a 53 percent reduction, indicating that fewer people are attempting to illegally cross the border.
- **Creating a More Humane Detention System:** DHS has implemented critical reforms to the detention system that enhance security and efficiency while prioritizing the health and safety of detainees. Two concrete examples are the recent opening of the first-ever designed-and-built civil detention center in Karnes City, Texas and the creation of the [Online Detainee Locator System](#), a public, internet-based tool that assists family members, attorneys, and other interested parties in locating individuals in DHS custody. Additionally, in the summer of 2012, DHS will begin deploying a new, automated risk classification assessment tool to improve transparency and uniformity in detention custody decisions.



- **Expanding and Enhancing Dialogue with Stakeholder Community on Enforcement System:** As a part of its ongoing detention reform and other enforcement-related initiatives, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) created the [Office of the Public Advocate](#). The ICE Public Advocate serves as a point of contact for individuals, including those in immigration proceedings, non-governmental organizations and other community and advocacy groups, who have concerns, questions, recommendations or other issues they would like to raise.
- **Improving Immigration Courts:** The Obama Administration has taken significant steps to improve the immigration adjudication system by increasing the number of immigration judges and support staff, and by improving training. Over the last three years, the Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review has hired more than 70 new immigration judges. The total number of judges nationwide is now over 260. This effort helps to move higher numbers of cases at a faster pace.
- **Making the Immigration System Work for Employers, Immigrants, and Their Families:** The Obama Administration has also worked to reform and streamline our immigration system, making it easier for employers, immigrants, and families to navigate through the bureaucracy.



- **Allowing Workers to Correct Their Employment Eligibility Records:** The Administration has launched successful programs to improve the accuracy of the E-Verify program, the voluntary employer verification program, by allowing workers to access their eligibility records, identify any errors, and take steps to make corrections before applying to jobs. The Administration has also provided additional training and resources for employers interested in using the program, which is the fastest and easiest way employers can ensure a legal workforce.



- **Reducing Barriers for High-Skilled Immigrants:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has begun taking steps to reduce barriers to accessing existing immigration visa program for high-skilled immigrants. USCIS has launched an innovative “Entrepreneurs in Residence” initiative that will utilize industry expertise to strengthen USCIS policies and practices relating to immigrant investors, entrepreneurs, and workers with specialized skills, knowledge, or abilities. USCIS has also committed to improving reviews of visa applications for self-funded entrepreneurs using the EB-5 immigrant investor visa. DHS has twice expanded the Optional Practical Training Program for foreign students who graduate with science, technology, engineering, or mathematics degrees to retain high skilled immigrant talent.
- **Improving Services for Immigrants, Employers, and Families:** The Obama Administration has improved its responsiveness to the individuals and families who rely on government for critical information and services. USCIS launched an updated website that for the first time ever is also available in Spanish; developed a tool for applicants to receive updates by email and text message on the status of their application; improved application processing times; fully eliminated the backlog for the FBI National Name Check Program (previously a major choke point for legal immigrant applications) while maintaining the integrity of important background checks; and implemented a new Secure Mail Initiative to make delivery of immigration documents more safe, secure, and timely.
- **Reducing Time U.S. Citizens are Separated from Immediate Family Members:** USCIS recently proposed a rule that would establish a new process to reduce the time U.S. citizens are separated from certain immediate relatives while those family members go through the process of becoming legal immigrants to the United States. Under the proposed process, spouses and children of U.S. citizens would be able to apply for a provisional waiver of the unlawful presence ground of inadmissibility while still in the United States if they can demonstrate that being separated from their U.S. citizen spouse or parent would cause that U.S. citizen relative extreme hardship. USCIS hopes to finalize the rule and begin using this new process later this year.



- **Providing New Tools to Prepare Applicants for Citizenship:** USCIS launched a new Citizenship Resource Center that centralizes information and tools on the naturalization process and administers the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program to improve access to



information about the naturalization process for qualified legal immigrants. The grant program has served more than 33,000 permanent residents in 30 states and the District of Columbia through over 111 grants to community-based organization since its inception. The Obama Administration has also worked to naturalize more than 37,500 military personnel and established a military assistance team that works with the Department of Defense to ensure the military community has accurate information about immigration services. The Administration has also launched a nationwide initiative to combat immigration services scams through increasing enforcement, education, and collaboration with local communities.

- **Protecting Civil Rights and Civil Liberties:** The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) at the Department of Homeland Security reviews and assesses information concerning abuses of civil rights, civil liberties, and profiling on the basis of race, ethnicity, or religion, by employees and officials of DHS. Through on-line complaint forms, community engagement roundtables, and quarterly meetings in areas with documented violations DHS has developed a multi-pronged, more accessible approach to documenting and acting on proven civil rights and civil liberties violations.

Making Health Care More Accessible and Affordable: This Administration has made great strides in giving Latinos—and all Americans—greater control over their health care. Latinos, who have the highest rates of un-insurance in the nation, are one of the groups that stand to benefit the most from the President signing the Affordable Care Act and reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program

- **Providing Health Insurance to as many as 9 million Latinos:** The Affordable Care Act (ACA) will, by 2014, make health care more accessible and affordable for as many as 9 million Latinos who currently lack coverage. By improving access to quality health care for Latinos and all Americans, the Affordable Care Act will help reduce health disparities which affect Latinos, who have higher than average rates of illnesses like diabetes, heart disease and kidney disease. The new law will reduce health care costs, and give individuals and families more control over their own care. In 2011, the Affordable Care Act provided approximately 6.1 million Latinos with at least one new free preventive service through their health insurance plans, including 3.9 million elderly and disabled. Additionally, the Affordable Care Act helps families by allowing young adults to stay on their parent’s health insurance policy up to the age of 26 years old— 736,000 Latinos between 19 and 25 who would have been uninsured have coverage on their parents’ plans. And when the law is fully implemented, as many as 9 million Latinos will have access to affordable, quality health care insurance. This is extremely significant for Latinos, many of whom do not have a regular doctor or source of preventive care. To support outreach and education about the ACA, HHS created www.healthcare.gov and www.cuidadodesalud.gov, easy to understand websites available to help consumers find insurance options, learn about prevention, and access newly available programs like the new pre-existing condition insurance plan.



- **Expanding Health Care Coverage and Ending the Worst Practices of Insurance Companies:**

Nearly a third of Hispanics are uninsured, higher than any other racial or ethnic group in the United States, and about half of Hispanics do not have a regular doctor, compared with only one-fifth of white Americans.

The reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program and the passage of

the Affordable Care Act are helping reduce these disparities by expanding affordable health care coverage to all Americans, including Hispanics. The Affordable Care Act creates new, competitive, state-based Exchanges, where individuals and small businesses can compare and access affordable private insurance options and receive tax credits to help make the purchase of insurance more affordable. It also expands Medicaid eligibility to more low-income individuals and families. The expansion of access to affordable health insurance by the Affordable Care Act will result in as many as [9 million Hispanics](#) becoming eligible to get newly affordable coverage.



- **Investing in Community Health Centers:** In addition to expanded access to insurance coverage, the [Affordable Care Act provides \\$11 billion](#) to bolster and expand [community health centers](#), including support for major construction and renovation projects, development of new community health center sites in medically underserved areas and expanded preventive and primary health care services at existing community health center sites. Health centers are community-based and serve populations with limited access to health care providers, including low-income populations, the uninsured, racial and ethnic minorities and those with limited English proficiency. Approximately 35 percent of patients served by community health centers in 2009 were Latino. Thanks in part to support from the Affordable Care Act, since the beginning of 2009, health centers across the country have added more than 18,600 new full-time positions in many of the nation's most economically distressed communities. For example, [Esperanza Health Center recently received](#) a \$6.5 million HRSA grant under the Recovery Act to construct a 28,000 square foot facility on the site of an abandoned warehouse in the Hunting Park neighborhood in North Philadelphia. The new facility increases Esperanza's capacity by 20 exam rooms and enables Esperanza to serve an additional 7,000 patients. The project created approximately 55 construction jobs, and at capacity, will provide over 60 permanent health care and administrative positions.



- **Recognizing Community Health Workers, “Promotores”:** Implementation of the Affordable Care Act is not only the creation of new programs, new streams of funding, and cuts to inefficient activities in our healthcare system, it is also expanding access and delivery systems to ensure all Americans are educated and informed about the opportunities available to them under the Act, especially within the Latino Community. Earlier this year, the Office of Minority Health in the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, recognized the great work performed by Promotores de Salud by announcing the National Promotores de Salud/Community Health Workers (Community Health Workers) Initiative. This initiative recognizes the important contributions of the Promotores de Salud/CHWs in reaching vulnerable, low income, and underserved members of Latino/Hispanic populations, and promotes the increased engagement of Promotores to support health education and prevention efforts, and improve access to health care services.
- **Supporting Health Care for Latino Children:** In the first few weeks in office, the Obama Administration expanded health insurance for children through the Children’s Health Insurance Program, which for the first time ever allowed states to cover legal immigrant children. This law has removed language barriers by allowing states to be reimbursed generally up to 75 percent for the cost of translation or interpretation services so that eligible non-English speaking children and pregnant women can get necessary healthcare information and services.

Fighting Childhood Obesity: Childhood obesity in the Hispanic population is growing faster than all other population segments with nearly two in five Hispanic children ages 2-19 being overweight or obese. First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move Initiative along with other creative initiatives throughout the Administration are working to tackle childhood obesity among Latino children. Hispanic children are at great risk of being overweight and obese throughout all stages of their childhood and adolescence. These numbers have significant health consequences. Childhood obesity is a contributing factor to higher risks for health complications such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer and asthma. Additionally, a number of factors limit Hispanic children’s options for physical activity, as well as access to healthy foods.

- **Providing Families with Culturally Appropriate Guidelines for Nutrition:** In January 2012 First Lady Michelle Obama launched the [Mi Plato](#) initiative. Goya Foods—the largest, Hispanic-owned U.S. food company—has committed to promote Mi Plato, the USDA’s educational tool that assists families in making healthy meal choices, is significant Mi Plato illustrates the five food groups that are the building blocks for a healthy diet using a familiar image—a place setting for a meal. Before you eat, think about what goes on your plate or in your cup or bowl.
- **Ensuring All Families Have Access to Healthy and Affordable Foods:** In FY 2011, Department of Treasury provided \$25 million in grants to community development financing institutions to fund healthy food initiatives and the Treasury New Market Tax Credits program includes 50 companies that expect to generate \$461 million for Healthy



Food Financing Initiative activities. HHS awarded \$10 million to community economic development corporations to develop grocery stores, small retailers, corner stores, farmers markets, and other innovative initiatives to help revitalize communities and eliminate food deserts. And USDA continues their work to improve access to healthy and affordable food across the nation through various

agency programs.

- **Providing Access to Fresh and Affordable Food:** In 2011 the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched [La Mesa Completa/The Complete Table](#) initiative to ensure that Latinos have access to federal nutrition assistance and a place at the table to discuss ways to promote healthier communities. USDA is working to improve access to and increase participation in the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) with a focus on underserved populations. While the participation rate among all eligible individuals was 67 percent in 2006, only 34 percent of eligible elderly and 56 percent of eligible Latinos participate. The USDA launched a new [Spanish-language nutrition assistance consumer resource](#) that helps families in need gain access to healthy food. The new online search tool is designed to help recipients find SNAP authorized stores near their home or workplace.
- **Connecting Latino Youth to America's Great Outdoors:** The Department of the Interior (DOI) is combating heart disease, diabetes, and obesity in the Latino community through engaging Latino youth in physical activity, education and awareness in National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, and other public lands. For example: the Gateway National Recreation Area hires Latino college students as summer interns to introduce them to heart healthy, outdoor, physical activities while. Latino interns to create an outreach plan for bringing more Latino youth into the park and explaining the connection between physical activity and improved overall health. DOI is working with national Latino organizations like LULAC and NCLR to bring Latino youth to public lands through community service projects, internships, and outdoor recreation activities.

[Affordable and Secure Homeownership:](#) Owning your own home is at the heart of the American Dream. That is why the Administration has worked to address the foreclosure crisis and revitalize the communities hardest hit by foreclosures while supplementing programs that help Hispanics work toward buying their own home. Since January 2009, more than 250,000 Hispanic households have purchased a home using a Federal Housing Administration guaranteed mortgage. The Administration has also worked to ensure that rental and affordable housing is



fair and non-discriminatory.

- **Rebuilding Communities Devastated by Foreclosures and Abandoned Properties:** The Department of Housing and Urban Development has invested \$7 billion to help local governments and non-profit organizations turn tens of thousands of abandoned and foreclosed homes into affordable housing communities through Neighborhood Stabilization Grants. NSP grants provide targeted emergency assistance to state and local governments to acquire, redevelop, or demolish foreclosed properties. These awards are aimed at helping reverse the effects of the foreclosure crisis – and will reduce blight, bolster neighborhood home values, create jobs and produce affordable housing and will have a large impact on minority communities. Of the \$7 billion (NSP1 \$4 billion NSP2 \$2 billion and NSP3 \$1 billion) invested so far, 60 percent was invested in communities of color. To date, more than 16 percent of the NSP 1 and NSP 2 households benefitting from acquisition, new housing construction, homeownership assistance, and rehabilitation were Latino households.
- **Addressing the Foreclosure Crisis in Latino Communities:** Community development corporations serving Latinos were awarded substantial awards under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program competition. Chicanos Por la Causa, in partnership with the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders, developed a consortium agreement with thirteen non-profit affordable housing developers that serve predominately Hispanic/Latino communities and provide bilingual/ bicultural services. The consortium was awarded \$137,107,133 in program funds, which will be used in targeted areas across 332 census tracts in eight States and the District of Columbia to address foreclosure and abandonment in the housing market and to create affordable housing for Latino communities. The Consortium will use the awarded funds to demolish 165 blighted properties, land bank 203 foreclosed homes, and produce 1,998 affordable housing units through the purchase and rehabilitation of foreclosed or abandoned homes, financing mechanisms, and redevelopment of vacant or abandoned properties. These activities will benefit households whose income is at or below 120 percent of area median income, with 25 percent of the funds for households at or below 50 percent of area median income. These funds, and the leveraging of \$12,012,000 in other funds, will lead to neighborhood stabilization by improving the housing market through the creation of affordable housing in the targeted communities.
- **Providing Relief for the Hardest Hit States:** President Obama established the Hardest Hit Fund in February 2010 to provide targeted aid to families in states hit hard by the economic and housing market downturn—many of those states are places where Latino families are most affected by the foreclosure crisis. The first five states to receive aid each experienced a 20 percent or greater decline in average home prices: Arizona, California, Florida, Michigan and Nevada. The program was expanded to provide support to five states with high percentages of their population living in areas of economic distress due to unemployment: North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island and South Carolina.



- **Making Home Ownership Affordable:** The Administration launched [Making Home Affordable](#) to offer mortgage modification and refinancing to struggling homeowners. This is a critical piece of the Administration's broad efforts to stabilize the housing market and provide relief to struggling families. Since January 2009, almost 90,000 Hispanic households have refinanced their mortgages using FHA, in many cases dramatically reducing their monthly payment or getting out of a risky adjustable rate loan. In addition, more than 188,000 permanent modifications have been made to borrowers who identified as being Hispanic, representing ~26% of all permanent modifications where race was reported.
- **Helping Hispanic Homebuyers Achieve the American Dream:** Fully 60 percent of all Hispanic homebuyers using mortgages rely upon FHA financing and more than 30 percent of all FHA-insured homebuyers are minorities. In fact, 45 percent of all Hispanic Americans who purchased a home last year did so with FHA financing.
- **Building Strong Cities and Strong Communities:** The Obama Administration launched [Strong Cities, Strong Communities \(SC2\)](#), an innovative initiative aimed at creating new partnerships between federal agencies and localities to spark economic development in communities that have faced significant long-term economic challenges. In addition to other components, SC2 embeds federal experts into the mayors' teams in six pilot cities - - Chester, Pennsylvania; Cleveland and Youngstown, Ohio (Northeast Ohio Region); Detroit, Michigan; Fresno, California; Memphis, Tennessee; and New Orleans, Louisiana—to help them execute their economic vision. SC2 is about strengthening local capacity while ensuring taxpayer dollars are used wisely and efficiently. These teams are working with local governments, the private sector, and other institutions to leverage federal dollars and support the work being done at the local level to catalyze economic growth and community development. Another groundbreaking feature of SC2 is an Economic Visioning Challenge—a competitive grant process led by the Economic Development Administration that will offer cash prizes for new solutions to spur economic growth and job creation in select communities. In addition, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has taken key steps to establish a National Resource Network (NRN), which will serve as an economic development resource center for communities to receive customized technical assistance, while also





acting as a “one-stop-shop” on other policy and technical issues for many other communities. Likewise, a new fellowship program will select, train, and place early- to mid-career professionals to serve multi-year terms in local government positions to provide additional capacity. By integrating government investments and partnering with local communities, SC2 channels the resources of the federal government to partner for growth with America’s cities, which serve as engines of innovation and our overall national economic recovery.

- **Revitalizing Neighborhoods:** The White House Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (NRI) is the Obama Administration’s bold, new approach aimed at opening opportunities for children and families living in the nation’s most distressed neighborhoods. NRI coordinates programs like Choice Neighborhoods, Promise Neighborhoods, and Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation that all work to successfully transform a neighborhood through comprehensive housing, education, safety, and health strategies and channel resources across sectors – government, business, and non-profit. Already, more than \$170 million in federal funding from NRI’s centerpiece programs – in addition to millions of dollars in leveraged private sector investment – is at work in 68 communities across the country. Millions of Americans currently live in neighborhoods of highly concentrated poverty where struggling schools, high unemployment rates, distressed housing, persistent and violent crime cause disproportionately negative outcomes for their residents. The interconnected challenges in high-poverty neighborhoods require interconnected solutions to address the compounding effects of the multiple barriers facing children and families who live in these neighborhoods—grants through the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative do just that.

Investing in America’s Infrastructure, Roads, and Public Transportation: The U.S. Department of Transportation along with other Federal agencies are responsible for ensuring fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation systems that meet our daily needs while enhancing the quality of life of all Americans, today and into the future. This includes travel over roads and bridges, on trains and buses, through water and in our nation’s skies. The Administration has taken several steps to ensure full access for all Americans, including the Latino community to public transportation. According to the U.S. Decennial Census, Latinos are three times as likely to use public transportation to get to work compared to other Americans. The U.S. Department of Transportation provides grants to support both urban and rural transportation services. In addition, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency recently created an interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities to help promote equitable affordable housing, provide more transportation options, and lower transportation costs for homeowners and renters while protecting the environment in communities nationwide.

- **Supporting Small Business Transportation Resource Centers:** The U.S. Department of Transportation has an Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) to ensure that small and disadvantaged businesses are provided maximum opportunity to participate in the agency’s contracting process. The primary responsibility



of the DOT/OSDBU is to ensure that small businesses are treated fairly and have an opportunity to compete and be selected for a fair amount of the agency's contracting and subcontracting dollars. The OSDBU has developed 11 Small Business Transportation Resource Centers (SBTRCs), including two that are specifically focused on Hispanic/Latino outreach. Below are a few examples of resources and services provided to small and minority-owned businesses:

- Financial Assistance Division: Continental National Bank of Miami is an active Participating Lender in the US Department of Transportation's Short Term Lending Program. Continental National Bank of Miami is a Hispanic owned bank located in Miami, FL and has a history of lending to local small minority-owned businesses. Caribe Utilities of Florida, Inc. a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firm from Miami, Florida, utilized the Short Term Lending Program through Continental National Bank of Miami with a \$250,000 loan to assist the company on two FHWA interchange projects; State Road 836 and State Road 826. The company specializes in construction of roadways, drainage systems, water & sewer systems, earthwork, and asphalt paving. The line of credit is helping to retain 31 jobs for Caribe.
- Procurement Assistance Division: Collaborated with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (LAMHCC), the Latin Business Association (LBA) and the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce (CHCC) for the Los Angeles Small Business Day event in July of 2011. DOT-OSDBU co-hosted the event with the office of Congresswoman Karen Bass to provide technical and financial assistance to minority and small business owners in the region.
- Regional Assistance Division: OSDBU has awarded two Cooperative Agreements/Grants to community-based Hispanic organizations to serve the small businesses in their respective regions. The Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Chicago, Illinois provides financial, procurement and technical assistance to minority small businesses in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan. The Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Dallas, Texas provides financial, procurement and technical assistance to minority small businesses in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Louisiana.
- DOT Bonding Education Program (BEP): In partnership with the Surety and Fidelity Association of America (SFAA), the Bonding Education Program combines classroom instruction and one-on-one meetings with surety professionals to help small businesses obtain a bonding line and apply that capacity to transportation related projects. Recent efforts include BEP workshops completed in Chicago, Dallas, and New Orleans.



- **Investing in our Nation's Infrastructure:** The President highlighted the importance of modernizing our nation's infrastructure in the 2012 State of the Union address. Whether it is by road, local transit, aviation, rail, pipeline, waterway, or the Internet, we rely on our infrastructure to move people and goods safely, facilitate commerce, attract and retain businesses, and support jobs. The President's FY2013 budget includes robust funding for transportation, as well as a six year reauthorization proposal. Given the importance of rebuilding the nation's infrastructure, the President's Budget uses near-term savings from reduced overseas military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to pay for his reauthorization. Making significant investments in our nation's infrastructure will not only put hundreds of thousands of people to work almost immediately, these investments are also crucial to the nation's future economic growth and prosperity.
- **Creating Livable Communities:** Recognizing that on average Americans spend 52 percent of their incomes on housing and transportation combined and 18 percent on transportation alone with lower-income families spending as much as 33 percent of their incomes on transportation, DOT has built a robust partnership with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address the connectivity between where people live, work, learn and play. Since 2009, the Partnership for Sustainable Communities (the Partnership) has helped communities around the country better meet their housing, transportation, and environmental goals, laying the groundwork for an economy that provides good jobs now and creates a strong foundation for long-term prosperity. Small towns, suburbs, cities, and entire regions are planning for sustainable communities, and many have asked the Partnership to help them turn these plans into reality. The Partnership has provided over \$3.5 billion in assistance to more than 700 communities. DOT, HUD, and EPA are working to develop more transportation choices (trains, buses, walking, and biking) to reduce the cost of transportation per household, dependence on foreign oil, and to enhance other health benefits. Public transportation options are especially important for helping individuals get to school, work and the doctor's appointments.
- **Working with Grantees to Provide Public Information in Spanish:** The Department of Transportation works closely with grantees to provide equal access to transportation services (bus, train, etc.) and to ensure that customers have access to materials in Spanish at the local level. Examples include bus schedules, passenger safety information, and pedestrian information. The Department has also launched the [Aviation and Consumer Protection Website](#) in Spanish. Similarly, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has developed a variety of education materials to reach Spanish-speaking populations about pedestrian and bicycle safety. Regardless of age group the percentage of non-occupant motor vehicle traffic fatalities is higher for minority populations. In 2011, NHTSA developed a basic pedestrian and bicycle safety [ESL curriculum](#) in community and faith-based organizations. And, they have also developed a seat-belt demonstration project for the adult Latino population; as well as [child passenger safety materials](#) in Spanish on NHTSA's website.



Protecting Our Air, Water and Cleaning Up Our Communities: The Obama Administration has taken critical steps toward ensuring that Latinos and all Americans are protected from air and water pollution and from toxic chemicals that harm their health. There are too many places in America today where the environmental, health, and economic burdens of pollution and exposure to chemicals fall disproportionately on poor and minority communities. This Administration has taken critical steps toward ensuring that Latinos and all Americans are protected from air and water pollution and from toxic chemicals that harm their health.

- **Addressing Asthma Among Hispanic Children:** With nearly 30 million Latinos—more than 70 percent of the US Latino population—living in places that do not meet U.S. air pollution standards, President Obama, has taken steps to correct this disparity and clean up our communities by setting achievable standards to improve public health and reduce harmful pollution, as discussed below. 20% of Puerto Rican children, and 8% of all Hispanic children, suffer from asthma —asthma symptoms can be caused, triggered, or worsened by poor air quality. In addition to cleaning up the air with new air quality standards, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has also set a goal of reducing exposure to indoor asthma triggers and improving the quality of life for 6.5 million people by the end of 2012.
- **Reducing Emissions from Coal-Fired Power Plants:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalized the first-ever national standards to reduce mercury and other toxic air emissions – like arsenic, acid gas, and cyanide – from existing power plants, which are the largest sources of this pollution in the United States. The American Lung Association and Voces Verdes applauded the release of this sensible public health measure. This crucial step forward will bring enormous public health benefits. By substantially reducing emissions of air toxics that lead to neurological damage and cancer, and reducing emissions of particulate matter that lead to respiratory illnesses and other serious health issues, these standards will benefit millions of people across the country, but especially children, older Americans, and other vulnerable populations. Cumulatively, the total health and economic benefits to society could reach \$90 billion each year.
- **Increasing Investments in Programs that Transform Latino Communities:** The President’s Recovery Act allowed the EPA to make major investments for the assessment and clean-up of sites known or suspected to be polluted – known as brownfield properties—including abandoned corner gas stations, old textile mills, closed smelters, and abandoned industrial and commercial properties. These investments target under-served and economically-disadvantaged neighborhoods—places where environmental cleanups and new jobs are most needed.
- **Reducing the Impact of Pesticide Exposure on Farm Workers and Communities:** The Obama Administration has taken unprecedented steps to ensure the safety of pesticides. For example, EPA proposed a plan to better understand the risks of pesticides through a more thorough assessment of risks to workers—including farm workers and their children—as well as risks posed by pesticides that are not used on food.



- **Promoting Environmental Justice:** In too many American communities, minority families shoulder a disproportionate burden of pollution in the places where they live, work and learn. These disparities result in health challenges like asthma and heart disease and end up turning away job creators looking for attractive, healthy places to set up their businesses. The President is committed to addressing those disparities and ensuring that all communities have the opportunity to enjoy the health and economic benefits of a clean environment. The President has begun to lay the ground work for achieving environmental justice for all Americans in a number of ways:
 - **Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice.** After a decade of inaction, in September 2010, the Obama Administration reconvened the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, to ensure that federal agencies are working together as never before to tackle this persistent challenge and provide all Americans with strong federal protection from environmental and health hazards.
 - **White House Environmental Justice Forum.** In December 2010, at the White House Environmental Justice Forum, Cabinet Secretaries and other senior Administration officials met with more than 100 environmental justice leaders from across the country to engage advocates on issues affecting their communities, including reducing air pollution, addressing health disparities, and capitalizing on emerging clean energy job opportunities. This was a first-of-its kind forum and an opportunity to have an honest dialogue about opportunities and challenges to achieving environmental justice in communities across the country.
 - **Addressing Issues of Environmental Justice in Transportation.** The US Department of Transportation has conducted significant outreach with diverse communities over the past year, including representatives from the Latino community and is committed to the following guiding principles as we develop and implement transportation projects and services, 1. to avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income communities; 2. to ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision making process; 3. to prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of transportation services by minority and low-income populations.
 - **Memorandum of Understanding.** Reflecting the dialogue, concerns and commitments made at the forum and other public events, in August of 2011, 17 federal leaders signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898. This MOU better defines and broadens the mission of the EJ IWG and commits each participating agency to develop an environmental justice strategy. These strategies were finalized earlier



this year and are serving as a road map to help integrate environmental justice into the programs agencies run, the policies they make, and the activities they engage in.

- **Educating and Engaging the Public in Restoring a Bi-national Watershed:** “Dia del Rio” is an initiative to restore bi-national community awareness and public participation in the Colorado-Rio Grande watershed. More than 25,000 participants from the U.S. and Mexico participated in river cleanups, tree plantings, art exhibits and educational talks.
- **Partnering with Academia to Improve Air Quality and Access to Clean Water:** Through [Border 2012](#), the University of Texas at El Paso examined options in bi-national traffic flow at the Bridge of Americas in order to determine the impact on air quality and pollution exposure along the US/Mexico Border. Through project leadership and public engagement at the local level, the Border 2012 effort has begun programs to work with companies to recycle obsolete electronics, collected more than 56,460 pounds of unused liquid and solid agricultural pesticides, and provided access to clean drinking water to the San Francisco community.
- **Delivering on the President’s Commitment to Clean Water:** The Obama Administration has taken comprehensive action to ensure the integrity of the waters Americans rely on for drinking, swimming, and fishing, and that support farming, recreation, tourism, and economic growth. The Administration has taken steps to clarify which waters are protected by the Clean Water Act nationwide; launched innovative partnerships and programs to improve water quality and water efficiency; created initiatives to revitalize communities by restoring rivers and critical watersheds; and taken steps to reduce the environmental impacts of mountaintop coal mining. The Administration has also begun a process to develop the first-ever national standard for perchlorate to reduce the risk posed by chemicals in drinking water. And the Administration has proposed to modernize the guidelines that govern Federal water resource planning, calling for water resources projects based on sound science, improved transparency, and consideration of the variety of community benefits of projects.
- **Renewing the Federal Commitment to Our Nation’s Ecosystems:** After decades of steep and steady decline of many of America’s valuable ecosystems, the Obama Administration is giving priority attention to the California Bay Delta, reversing the longstanding decline of the Gulf of Mexico, making long-overdue progress on projects to restore the Everglades, improving Chesapeake Bay protection and restoration, and making the most significant investment in Great Lakes restoration in history.
- **Protecting our Oceans and Coasts:** America’s coastal regions and waters support tens of millions of jobs and contribute trillions of dollars to the national economy each year. That’s why President Obama established the first comprehensive National Ocean Policy to ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of our ocean, coasts, and Great



Lakes ecosystems. With over half of the American population living within 50 miles of the coast, the Administration is working together with states, tribes, and local leaders to enhance the sustainability of ocean and coastal economies.

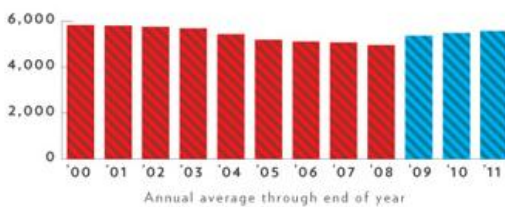
- **Protecting America's Landscapes:** President Obama has led the most extensive expansion of land and water conservation in more than a generation, fighting to protect our Nation's natural heritage and the places Americans swim, fish, hunt, hike, and spend time outdoors. The President signed legislation that designated millions of acres of Federal land as wilderness, protected more than 1,000 miles of rivers, authorized the 26 million-acre National Landscape Conservation System, and designated thousands of miles of trails for the National Trails System. The Administration has also taken action to protect tens of millions of acres of roadless areas across the country. President Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia, and Fort Ord on California's Central Coast as National Monuments, establishing permanent protection for these important sites. The President also created the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to work with the American people to develop a community-led conservation and recreation agenda for the 21st century.

Building a More Secure Energy Future: For too long, the high cost of energy has squeezed middle-class families and hurt business' competitiveness. That's why President Obama has enacted new fuel economy standards and supported weatherization programs, helping families and businesses save money on energy. The President is committed to an all-of-the-above strategy that expands production of American energy resources, like oil and natural gas; increases energy efficiency to save families and businesses money at the pump; and develops cleaner, alternative fuels to reduce our oil dependence. Given the growth of the Hispanic community in recent decades our nation's Hispanic students and workforce will play a pivotal role in these new and emerging sectors.

- **Encouraging the Production of America's Oil and Natural Gas Resources:** Since President Obama took office, domestic oil and gas production has increased each year. In 2011, U.S. crude oil production reached its highest level since 2003 and U.S. natural gas production reached an all-time high.

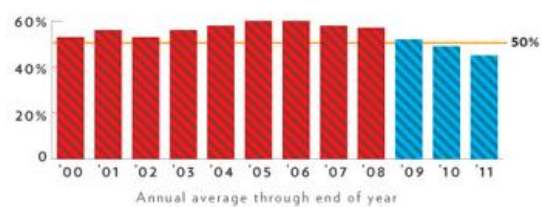
DOMESTIC OIL PRODUCTION IS UP. FOREIGN IMPORTS ARE DOWN

U.S. PRODUCTION OF OIL RISING UNDER OBAMA
Domestic production of crude oil - thousands of barrels per day



SOURCE: EIA

U.S. DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL DECLINING
Net imports as a share of domestic consumption



SOURCE: EIA



- **Increasing American Energy Independence:** A year ago, the President set a bold but achievable goal of reducing oil imports by a third in a little over a decade, relative to where they were when he ran for office. Thanks to booming U.S. oil and gas production, more efficient cars and trucks, and a world-class refining sector that last year was a net exporter for the first time in sixty years, we have already cut net imports by ten percent – or a million barrels a day – in the last year alone. And with the new fuel economy standards the President announced last year, we are on pace to meet our goal by the end of the decade.
- **Advancing Historic New Fuel Economy Standards:** Taken together, the Obama Administration’s standards for cars and light-duty trucks span model years 2011 to 2025 and represent the first meaningful update in over three decades. Under this program, average fuel efficiency will reach a performance equivalent of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025 and will save consumers \$1.7 trillion at the pump over time – and a family that



purchases a new vehicle in 2025 will save roughly \$8,200 in fuel costs when compared with a similar vehicle in 2010. In aggregate, these rules will slash oil consumption by 2.2 million barrels a day by 2025. The Administration has also finalized the first-ever national fuel efficiency and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission standards for heavy-duty trucks, vans, and buses spanning model years 2014-2018, which will reduce oil consumption by over 500 million barrels, and save truck owners and operators more than \$50 billion in fuel costs over time.

- **Reducing Building Energy Costs:** Since October 2009, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have completed energy upgrades in more than one million homes. DOE’s Weatherization Assistance Program alone has completed energy efficiency upgrades in approximately 860,000



homes across the country. On average, these upgrades save American families more than \$400 on their heating and cooling bills in the first year alone. To complement those efforts, the Administration has also taken new steps to help families save money by increasing the efficiency of everyday appliances, like refrigerators and dishwashers. Under this Administration, the Department of Energy has finalized new standards for more than thirty products which are estimated to save consumers more than \$300 billion through 2030. Finally, The Better Buildings Initiative the President announced in February 2011, combining administrative actions, a challenge to the private sector, and legislative proposals, is aimed at improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings by 20 percent by 2020.

- **Doubling Renewable Energy Generation:** Thanks in large part to the Obama Administration's investment in clean energy – the largest in American history – the



United States has nearly doubled renewable energy generation from wind, solar, and geothermal sources since 2008. In fact, last year, according to industry experts, the United States reclaimed the title as the world's leading investor in clean energy technologies. This means more jobs for American workers. As determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in their March 2012 report, there were 3.1 million jobs associated with the production of green goods and services in the United States in 2010.

- **Creating the Jobs of the Future:** The Recovery Act invested more than \$90 billion in clean energy – the largest clean energy investment in American history. This support has encouraged a growing economy by supporting wind and solar farms, commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol biorefineries, and other technologies. As determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in their March 2012 report, there were 3.1 million jobs associated with the production of green goods and services in the United States in 2010. Given the



growth of the Hispanic community in recent decades our nation's Hispanic students and workforce will play a pivotal role in these new and emerging sectors.

Protecting Civil Rights and Civil Liberties: The Obama Administration has taken unprecedented steps to ensure that our laws are enforced fairly and equitably. Federal agencies—from the Departments of Justice and Education to Housing and Urban Development to the Department of Agriculture—are working to strengthen their civil rights divisions to fight discrimination and enforce equal protection under the law. The Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division has grown more over the last two years than during any other point in our history, adding more than 100 new personnel, and new energy and vigor to the vital task of enforcing our nation's civil rights laws.

- **Enforcing Hate Crime Laws:** The Obama Administration has made the prosecution of hate crimes a top priority. In October 2009, President Obama signed the Mathew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act which expanded the Department of Justice's (DOJ) ability to prosecute cases of racially-motivated violence, including violence motivated by animus toward immigrants and Latinos because of their race, national origin, color, sexual orientation, gender identification, or disability.
 - On February 23, 2011, Brandon Piekarsky and Derrick Donchak, both of Shenandoah, PA, were sentenced to nine years in prison for the fatal beating of Luis Ramirez, an undocumented immigrant from Mexico. During the course of the beating, the defendants and their friends yelled racial epithets and told him, "This is Shenandoah. This is America. Go back to Mexico." In addition, Donchak was sentenced to an additional 30 months, which will run concurrently, for conspiring with some of his friends, some of their parents, and members of the Shenandoah Police Department to obstruct the investigation of the fatal assault. On January 27, 2011, the former Shenandoah Police Chief and a Police Lieutenant were convicted of falsifying information related to the investigation of the fatal beating. The police chief was sentenced to 13 months in prison, and the lieutenant received a three-month term of imprisonment.
 - On April 18, 2011, Vincent Johnson of Brick, N.J., who went by the internet pseudonym "Devilfish," was sentenced to 50 months in prison after he pled guilty to multiple charges related to a series of threatening communications he sent to employees of five civil rights organizations that work to improve opportunities for, and challenge discrimination against, Latinos in the United States. Johnson threatened employees of the LatinoJustice Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund; the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF); the National Council of La Raza (NCLR); the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); and the National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders (NCLCC).



- On September 28, 2011, Frankie Maybee and Sean Popejoy were sentenced to 11 years and three months and 4 years respectively for a racially-motivated assault on five Latino men. The men were charged with one count of conspiracy and five counts of violating the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. On June 20, 2010, the defendants yelled anti-Latino epithets at the victims while at a gas station parking lot. When the victims drove away, the defendants chased after them in their truck. The defendants eventually caught up to the victims' car and repeatedly rammed their truck into the victims' car, injuring all five victims and causing the victims' car to go off the road, overturn and ignite. On May 19, Maybee was convicted at trial, the first defendant to be convicted at trial under the Act. Days earlier, after agreeing to cooperate against Maybee, Popejoy pled guilty in federal court to one count of committing a federal hate crime and one count of conspiring to commit a federal hate crime.
- **Protecting Migrants and Guest Workers Against Human Trafficking:** DOJ's Civil Rights Division is committed to vigorously investigating and prosecuting human trafficking offenses and vindicating the rights of trafficking victims. In each of the past three fiscal years, the Division has brought more human trafficking prosecutions *than in any of the prior years*. Traffickers frequently target both undocumented migrants and documented guest workers, exploiting vulnerabilities based on language barriers, dislocation, isolation, and distrust of authorities. The Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit has collaborated with Mexican authorities to carry out an initiative aimed at dismantling sex trafficking networks that exploit young, vulnerable women and girls on both sides of the US-Mexico border. This collaboration has led to recent prosecutions in Miami, Atlanta, and Mexico which have resulted in convictions of numerous human traffickers, both in the United States under U.S. law and in Mexico under Mexican law.
 - In March 2011, the ring leader of an organization that brought 10 victims, including four juveniles, to the United States and forced them into prostitution was sentenced to serve 40 years in prison. Victims testified at trial that the defendant and his co-conspirators would trick and deceive young women in Mexico into coming to the United States, promising the victims they would have a life together and then telling them they needed to travel to the United States to make money working in restaurants or cleaning homes. The co-conspirators took turns monitoring the victims, and various drivers transported the victims to residences of clients where the victims were required to engage in commercial sex.
- **Protecting Women and Latino Farmers:** As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in past decades, on January 25, 2012, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced improvements to the process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans. The Obama Administration has made it a priority to resolve all claims of past discrimination at USDA. The updated



claims process increases the maximum cash recovery to \$250,000 instead of \$50,000. The process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or woman farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their loan or loan servicing for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. The voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees or other costs to claimants to participate in the program. Participation is voluntary, and the program does not preclude individuals who opt not to participate from pursuing their cases in court. This updated process comes as part of USDA's efforts to ensure that all its customers have equal access to its programs, and follows the Obama Administration's settlement of longstanding litigation brought by African American farmers and Native American farmers. USDA worked to reach out to potential Hispanic and female claimants through a call center for farmers and ranchers, a website, public service announcements, and in-person meetings around the country. To read more about Secretary's Vilsack's announcement [click here](#). To download USDA public service announcements in English and Spanish [click here](#).

- **Combating Discriminatory Policing Practices:** Effective, accountable, and respected policing is critical for the safety of any community. The DOJ Civil Rights Division has the authority to investigate jurisdictions to ensure they engage in constitutional policing. The most effective police departments control crime, ensure respect for the Constitution, and earn the trust of the public they are charged with protecting. This includes ensuring that law enforcement strikes the appropriate balance between national security, public safety, and civil rights. The Division has opened several investigations where there is evidence of a pattern or practice of discriminatory policing in violation of Section 14141 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994.
 - In September 2011, the Division released its findings following an extensive investigation of the Puerto Rico Police Department. The findings include widespread patterns of unconstitutional uses of force, searches and seizures, and suppression of free speech. The investigation also found inadequate systems to protect against biased policing against residents of Dominican descent and a failure to report and investigate gender-based crimes. DOJ is in discussions with the Commonwealth to resolve the investigative findings.
 - The Division has been investigating whether the police department in Suffolk County, New York has engaged in a discriminatory pattern and practice of failing to protect Latinos from hate and other crimes. In September 2011, the Division issued an extensive technical assistance letter to the County regarding policy and procedure changes that are necessary to address community concerns regarding biased policing. At the completion of the investigation, a public findings letter will be issued.
 - The Division issued public findings noting that the [Maricopa County Sheriff's](#)



[Office](#) (MCSO) engage in racial profiling and failed to provide required language services for non-English speakers. Based upon DOJ's extensive investigation, it found reasonable cause to believe that MCSO engages in a pattern or practice of unconstitutional policing. Specifically, DOJ found that MCSO, through the actions of its deputies, supervisory staff, and command staff, engages in racial profiling of Latinos; unlawfully stops, detains, and arrests Latinos; and unlawfully retaliates against individuals who complain about or criticize MCSO's policies or practices, all in violation of Section 14141. MCSO's discriminatory police conduct also violates Title VI and its implementing regulations.

- **Ensuring Fair Housing and Lending Practices:** In the wake of the nationwide housing and foreclosure crisis, DOJ's Civil Rights Division has made enforcement of fair housing and fair lending laws a top priority. The Division has created a dedicated fair lending unit in the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section and hired a Special Counsel for Fair Lending.
 - On February 9, 2012, the Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, other federal agencies, and 49 state attorneys general announced the [largest federal and state settlement agreement](#) in history with the five major mortgage servicers for their mortgage servicing practices. This \$25 billion agreement is the most significant action to hold the banks accountable since the housing crisis began and represents an important step in helping the housing market to recover, while strengthening the overall economy. The agreement has the potential to help nearly two million American homeowners through a variety of means, including loss mitigation tools such as principal reduction and refinancing of loans for borrowers who owe more on their house than it is worth ("underwater" homeowners), payments of billions of dollars to federal and state parties, and payments directly to individuals who lost their homes to foreclosure and meet certain other criteria
 - In June 2011, the Division settled a fair lending case against Nixon State Bank in Nixon, Texas in which the lender was alleged to have charged higher prices on unsecured consumer loans made to Latino borrowers through the bank's branch offices. As part of the settlement agreement, the bank agreed to establish uniform pricing policies to ensure non-discrimination, and to pay nearly \$100,000 to Latino victims of discrimination.
 - In September 2011, the Division settled a fair lending case against C&F Mortgage Corporation of Midlothian, Virginia in which the lender was alleged to have charged higher prices to Latino and African-American borrowers than similarly-qualified non-Latino white borrowers. As part of the settlement, the lender agreed to develop uniform pricing policies, monitor its loans for potential disparities based on race or national origin, and pay \$140,000 to victims of discrimination.



- In November 2009, the Division announced the *largest settlement ever* in a rental discrimination case. The Division obtained a \$2.725 million Fair Housing Act settlement in a case that involved discrimination against African Americans and Latinos at several apartment communities in the Los Angeles area.
- **Protecting Voting Rights:** DOJ's Civil Rights Division has continued the critical work of enforcing the Voting Rights Act, including the Act's provisions that require certain jurisdictions with significant populations of language minority citizens to provide voting assistance in the minority language. DOJ has also been vigorously enforcing Section 208 of the Act, which provides that voters who need assistance in voting can receive that assistance from a person of their choice.
 - In October 2011, the Justice Department reached a settlement with Lorain County, Ohio to protect the rights of Spanish-speaking Puerto Rican voters. The settlement resolves a lawsuit alleging that the County was not in compliance with the requirements of Section 4(e) of the Voting Rights Act, because the County failed to provide critical election-related information and assistance in Spanish to LEP Puerto Rican voters. Under the agreement, the County will provide a bilingual machine ballot and hire more bilingual workers starting with the November 8, 2011, election. The County will take additional steps to create a compliant bilingual election program beginning with elections held in 2012.
 - In June 2011, the Department of Justice filed a complaint and consent decree in a lawsuit against Alameda County, California to protect the rights of Spanish-speaking citizens under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act. The complaint alleged that Alameda County violated Section 203 by failing to provide Spanish-speaking citizens with effective language assistance and translated materials and information necessary to cast an informed ballot. The consent decree was signed on October 19, 2011, and will require bilingual language assistance at the polls, as well as election-related materials and information in Spanish. The consent decree also authorizes federal observers to monitor Election Day activities in polling places in Alameda County.
 - In September 2010, the Justice Department reached a settlement with Cuyahoga County, Ohio to resolve concerns that limited English proficient Puerto Rican voters were being denied their full voting rights because of inadequate language assistance. According to the 2000 Census, among all United States counties, Cuyahoga County had the largest population of Puerto Rican voters that lacked access to a bilingual ballot. Under the agreement, the parties agreed to phase in additional bilingual poll workers and new bilingual sample ballots for the county's primary election on September 7, 2010. The agreement also provided for bilingual ballots in targeted precincts for the November 2, 2010, general election, and bilingual ballots county-wide thereafter.



- **Protecting the Rights of Latino Children:** Since January 2009, the Civil Rights Division has opened 18 new investigations to determine if school districts, and in some instances states, are complying with their obligations to provide English language services under the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974. Since that time, the Division also opened another six investigations regarding allegations of national origin discrimination that involve Latino children.
- **Boston Public Schools:** On October 1, 2010, the Division and the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights reached a settlement agreement with the Boston Public Schools that ensures that its ELL students will no longer be denied language support services based on a system that did not accurately assess or provide for their language needs. As a result of the agreement, **more than 4,000** students who were inappropriately characterized as having “opted out” of ELL services must have ELL and compensatory services made available to them. An additional 4,300 students who were improperly identified as non-ELL students must be offered ELL services.
- **Arizona Department of Education:** On March 25, 2011, the Division and the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights reached an agreement with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) that required the ADE to revoke its one-question Home Language Survey, which failed to identify and serve all eligible ELL students. Pursuant to the agreement, ADE reinstated its previously used three-question survey so that all potential ELLs are identified for assessment and service.
- **Equal Access to Education:** On May 6, 2011, the Division and the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights and Office of General Counsel issued a joint Dear Colleague Letter to all school districts, reminding them of their longstanding legal obligations to treat all children equally and ensure that they have access to a public education regardless of immigration or citizenship status. DOJ issued the letter because, even though the law is clear, it became apparent that the legal issues surrounding undocumented students in public schools may be confusing to many schools, parents, and students. As articulated in the letter, the Supreme Court held almost 30 years ago in *Plyler v. Doe* that the Constitution bars states from denying undocumented children who reside in a state access to a K-12 public education.





- **Protecting Youth in the Juvenile Justice System:** The Division has jurisdiction pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA) to protect the rights of all persons in the justice system throughout the United States. Below is an example of a case that, because it involves a detention facility in Puerto Rico, has a particularly strong impact on protecting the rights of Latinos.
 - **Puerto Rico Juvenile Detention:** The Division continues to strive to protect the rights of children confined in juvenile detention facilities throughout Puerto Rico through enforcement of a settlement agreement reached in 1997. Through active enforcement of this agreement, the Division seeks to protect children from harm and unsafe conditions, including violence and sexual abuse at the hands of facility staff. The Division also seeks to ensure that children receive an education while confined, and that they are provided adequate medical and mental health care. Despite concerted efforts by the Division, and notwithstanding some successes, these juveniles remain in unsafe and violent conditions, without access to adequate education or medical and mental health care.

- **Guarding Against Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices:** The Immigration & Nationality Act prohibits employers from imposing different or greater employment eligibility verification standards on the basis of a worker's citizenship status or national origin. DOJ's Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices is responsible for enforcing the anti-discrimination provision.
 - On August 26, 2011, the Division reached a settlement with Kinro Manufacturing, Inc., a manufacturing company in Goshen, Indiana, to resolve allegations that the company engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination against non-citizens in the employment eligibility verification process. Specifically, the company subjected newly hired non-U.S. citizens to excessive demands for documents issued by the Department of Homeland Security in order to verify their employment eligibility, but did not require U.S. citizens to show any specific documentation. The charging party, a lawful permanent resident, brought the charge of discrimination after he was required to provide additional proof of his employment eligibility not required by law before he could begin work at the company. The settlement provided for \$25,000 in civil penalties and \$10,000 in back pay.
 - On August 22, 2011, the Division settled a case resolving allegations of document abuse and citizenship status discrimination against Farmland Foods Inc., a meat processor located in Monmouth, Illinois. The investigation revealed a pattern or practice of requesting all non-citizen employees to produce a List A document and two additional documents during the I-9 process. The vast majority of those affected were Latinos. The charging party was a Latino naturalized U.S. citizen. Farmland agreed to pay \$290,400 in civil penalties, which is the largest amount of civil penalties to date to resolve such allegations.



- On August 10, 2011, the Division reached a settlement with Summit Steel Fabricators, Inc. to resolve allegations that the company engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination against non-citizens in the employment eligibility verification process identified during the course of the investigation of a charge of citizenship status discrimination in the hiring and firing process. Specifically, the company, a steel fabricator based in Houston, Texas, had a policy of requiring newly-hired workers who are not U.S. citizens to present specific documentation not required by federal law, but did not require U.S. citizens to present any particular documents. Summit Steel agreed to pay \$15,400 in civil penalties.
- On July 21, 2011, the Division reached a settlement with Brand Energy and Infrastructure Services and its subsidiary, Industrial Specialists, to resolve allegations that the companies engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination against non-citizens in the employment eligibility verification process. The companies, which provide industrial craft services nationwide, required all of the non-U.S. citizens hired by one human resources agent to provide documents issued by the Department of Homeland Security to verify their employment eligibility, but did not require U.S. citizens to show specific documentation. The charging party, a recipient of temporary protected status, brought the charge after he was terminated. Further investigation revealed that over three dozen non-U.S. citizens were subjected to the same treatment. The companies agreed to pay \$43,560 in civil penalties and \$7,200 in back pay.
- Catholic Healthcare West: In October 2010, the Division settled a case involving charges of discrimination against non-citizens by Catholic Healthcare West, which is the eighth largest hospital provider in the nation, operating 41 facilities in California, Nevada, and Arizona. Catholic Healthcare West agreed to pay \$257,000 to settle claims that it engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination against hundreds of work authorized immigrants and naturalized U.S. citizens by requiring them to produce more or specific documents in the hiring process, but not making additional documentary requests of native-born U.S. citizens.
- **Protecting Workers From Employment Discrimination:** The Civil Rights Division enforces against state and local government employers the provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other federal laws prohibiting employment practices that discriminate on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, and national origin.
 - *U.S. v. City of New York (FDNY)* – In this lawsuit, filed in May 2007, District Judge Nicholas Garaufis ruled that the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) engaged in a pattern or practice of hiring discrimination against black and Hispanic applicants through its use of two written examinations to select entry-level firefighters. On July 22, 2009, the court entered summary judgment in favor of the United States and, on January 21, 2010, issued a memorandum and order



regarding relief issues in which the Court indicated that it will award the major forms of relief requested by the United States. The Court held that it will: (1) award backpay to the victim class; (2) order the City make up to 293 priority hires of qualified African-American and Latino victims with retroactive benefits and seniority; (3) order that the City provide retroactive benefits and seniority to African-American and Latino firefighters who were hired later than they would have been absent discrimination; and (4) require order the City to work with the United States' expert to develop a new, lawful firefighter examination.



- *U.S. v. New Jersey* – Filed in 2010, this lawsuit alleges that the State of New Jersey and its Civil Service Commission are engaged in a pattern or practice of employment discrimination against African Americans and Latinos through its use of a promotional examination for police sergeant that disproportionately screens out African-American and Latino candidates, and is not job-related

and consistent with business necessity. The parties entered into a consent decree with the State which, if approved by the Court, will provide for injunctive relief, including the State's development and implementation of a new selection procedure for promotion to police sergeant that complies with Title VII. The decree also provides for remedial relief, including, \$1 million in back pay and 68 priority promotions for those African-American and Latino candidates who were harmed by the unlawful examination.

- *U.S. v. Tucson Unified School District (TUSD)* – The complaint, filed along with a consent decree in August 2011, alleges that TUSD discriminated against five female, Latino employees by subjecting them to a hostile work environment based on sex and national origin, in violation of Title VII. Specifically, beginning in or about March 2006, a white, male custodian subjected coworkers to a series of discriminatory comments based on their sex and/or national origin, such as “Mexicans are all stupid,” “lazy Mexican woman,” “Go back to Barrio Hollywood,” “taco-bender,” and “slut,” and began to physically intimidate them. Although several investigations were conducted by TUSD, no effective disciplinary action was taken against the alleged harasser. Under the terms of the decree, TUSD paid a total of \$45,000 in compensatory damages to the five victims. In addition, TUSD was required to revise its policies and procedures for investigating and resolving complaints of discrimination and to provide mandatory training to its employees regarding those policies and procedures.



Honoring and serving our Veterans, Service Members, and Military Families:

From the American Revolution to serving on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan, Hispanic service men and women play a major role in defending our nation. Approximately 213,965 Hispanic soldiers are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and according to the U.S. Census, an estimated 5.3 percent of our Nation's veterans are Hispanic – over 1.1 million Hispanic veterans have bravely served our nation. The Obama Administration's Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs have worked to ensure that we honor the service and sacrifice of our military and their families.

- **Making College Accessible for Veterans:** Every day, the Department of Veterans Affairs serves Hispanic veterans in a variety of ways— from service connected disability compensation to educational services, home loan guarantee programs and health care service. In 2011, the VA provided \$7.6 billion in Post-9/11 GI Bill payments to benefit more than 550,000 veteran students and family members at over 5,900 educational campuses. The President also signed an Executive Order in April 2012 to help ensure all of America's service members, veterans, spouses, and other family members have the information they need to make informed educational decisions and are protected from aggressive and deceptive targeting by educational institutions.
- **Creating Two New Veterans' Tax Credits:** In November 2011, the President signed into law two new tax credits for hiring veterans, both of which he proposed as part of the American Jobs Act. The Returning Heroes Tax Credit provides an incentive of up to \$5,600 for firms to hire unemployed veterans and the Wounded Warrior Tax Credit doubled the existing tax credit for long-term unemployed veterans with service-connected disabilities to \$9,600. Both credits are set to expire at the end of this year, and the President is calling on Congress to extend those credits.
- **Helping More Veterans Start Businesses:** Nine percent of all U.S. firms are owned by veterans and more than 2.4 million veteran-owned businesses employ more than 5.75 million individuals. Between 2009 and 2011, over \$3.6 billion in over 12,000 Small Business Administration loans went to small businesses owned by veterans and service disabled veterans.
- **Increasing Access to Intensive Reemployment Services:** Post-9/11 veterans are now able to download the Veteran Gold Card, which entitles them to enhanced reemployment services including six months of personalized case management, assessments and career counseling at their local American Job Center. This could help serve the nearly 200,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans. The President directed the Department of Labor to launch this initiative in his August 5, 2011 speech at the Navy Yard.
- **Developing Online Tools to Boost Veteran Employment:** The Administration launched the Veterans Jobs Bank, an easy-to-use tool to help veterans find job postings from companies looking to hire them. It already searches over one million job postings and is

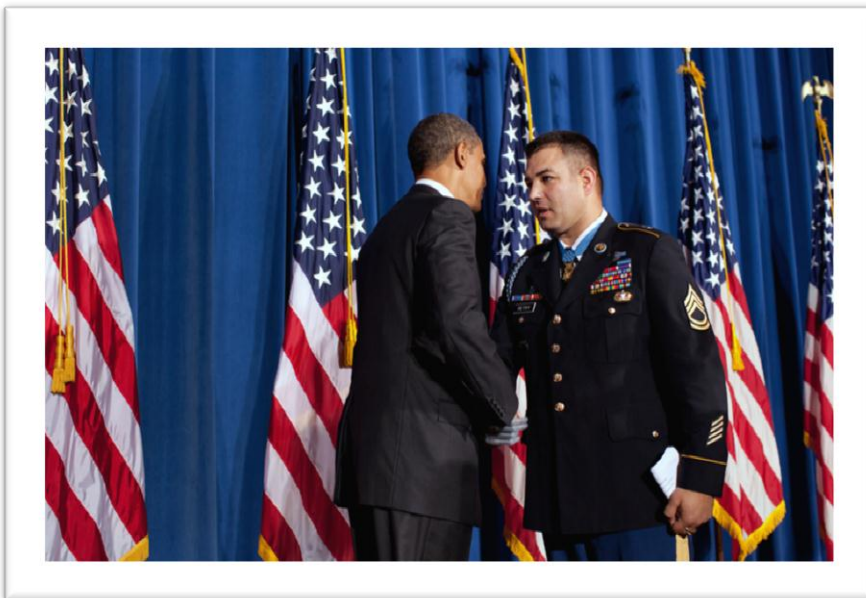


growing. Additionally, the Department of Labor launched My Next Move for Veterans, a new online resource that allows veterans to enter their military occupation code and discover civilian occupations for which they are well qualified.

- **Hiring More Veterans in the Federal Government:** The federal government has helped lead efforts to employ veterans, hiring more than 200,000 veterans since 2009.
- **Streamlining Civilian Credentialing for Service Members and Veterans:** Last month, the Department of Defense established, under the President's direction, a Military Credentialing and Licensing Task Force, which will identify opportunities where service members can earn civilian occupational credentials and licenses without the need for additional training. As the first action of the Task Force, all branches of the military worked with manufacturing credentialing agencies to enable up to 126,000 service members to gain industry-recognized, nationally-portable certifications for high-demand manufacturing jobs.
- **Hiring 8,000 Veterans through Community Health Centers:** In October 2011, the Obama Administration challenged Community Health Centers to hire 8,000 veterans – approximately one veteran per health center site – over the next three years. The health reform law

provides funding for community health centers to serve more Americans and hire more workers. Additionally, HHS will ask centers to start reporting on the number of veterans that they employ. The Departments of Health and Human Services, Defense, Labor, and Veterans Affairs

will work together to connect veterans to the health clinics' job openings. Health centers improve the health of the nation and assure access to quality primary health care services at more than 8,000 service delivery sites around the country. They are also an integral source of local employment and economic growth in many underserved and low-income communities. Veterans who are committed to serving their country and their communities are well suited to serve in a number of capacities at community health centers.





- **Helping Veterans Become Physician Assistants:** To fast-track medics into jobs in community health centers and other parts of the health care system, today the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) pledged to open up career-paths beyond nursing and expand opportunities for veterans to become physician assistants. Through this initiative, HRSA began to



give priority in physician assistant grant awards to universities and colleges that help train veterans for careers as physician assistants. Through the Affordable Care Act, Recovery Act, and appropriations in fiscal years 2010 and 2011, \$45 million has been invested to support accredited physician assistant training programs. Currently, there are 57 active physician assistant training grants.

- **Joining Forces to Support Military Families:** In August 2011, the President challenged the private sector to hire or train 100,000 veterans or military spouses by the end of 2013. The President also asked First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden to lead these efforts with the private sector as part of their Joining Forces initiative. In less than a year, more than 1,600 private sector companies have stepped up and already employed more than 90,000 veterans and spouses. In addition, these private sector companies have committed to hiring 170,000 veterans and spouses by the end of 2013, exceeding the President's challenge. Also included in these private sector employment efforts is a dedicated commitment to hire 5,000 wounded warriors.

The Federal Government Better Reflects the Face of America: President Obama has named more Hispanics to top posts than any of his predecessors, drawing appointees from a wide range of the nation's Latino communities, including Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cuban-Americans, Dominican-Americans and Colombian-Americans, among others. The President appointed the first Hispanic to the Supreme Court, Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

- **Commitment to Diversity:** From Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Cabinet Secretaries Hilda Solis and Ken Salazar to our Director of the Domestic Policy Council Cecilia Muñoz, Latinos and Latinas are serving at every level of government and in every policy arena. Some of our most notable Administration Officials include Francisco Sanchez who serves as Assistant Secretary for the International Trade Administration at the Department of Commerce; Lisa Garcia who serves as Associate Administrator for Environmental Justice at the Environmental Protection Agency; Marissa Lago who serves as Assistant Secretary for International Markets at the Department of Treasury; Tom



Perez who serves as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice; and Ignacia Moreno who serves as Assistant Attorney General for Natural Resources at the Department of Justice, among many others.

- **Ensuring Accountability and Transparency in Federal Hiring Practices:** In order to ensure that we are reaching and including this Nation's diverse and talented citizens, the US Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has created three new offices to lead our efforts—the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Senior Executive Service Office and the Student Programs Office. Combined, these offices will work together to develop strategies to add diversity to our permanent Federal Workforce, including Hispanics. In addition, OPM has created the Hispanic Advisory Council to provide recommendations and best practices on improving recruitment, hiring, retention, and advancement of Hispanics in the Federal Workforce. The Council is co-chaired by OPM Chief of Staff, Liz Montoya and Department of Veteran Affairs Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration, John Sepulveda, and made up of Hispanic organizations and federal employees.

A New Era of Partnerships in the Americas: President Obama has opened up a new era of partnership with our neighbors in the Americas. The President and his Administration have reached out to help tackle the challenges facing the people of the Americas today, including issues of energy, citizen security, and economic and social inclusion.

- **Investing in the International Marketplace:** The President knows that we have to redouble our efforts in the international marketplace. That is why he announced the National Export Initiative (NEI) in his 2010 State of the Union Address. The NEI has the dual goal of doubling exports by 2014, and adding millions of jobs. The NEI has several key elements, including significantly expanding efforts across the government to promote U.S. exports; providing expanded trade financing and access to capital, especially for small businesses; eliminating key barriers to trade by more effectively enforcing our bilateral trade agreements and multilateral trade commitments under the WTO; and expanding US market share overseas through the negotiation of additional free trade agreements. The NEI is a government-wide effort lead by the Department of Commerce, which has already making significant gains. Through the first two years of this Initiative, exports grew by a 15.6 percent compound annual rate, a pace greater than the 15 percent required to double exports by the end of 2014. During the same two-year period, jobs supported by exports grew by 1.2 million. In 2011, each billion dollars of U.S. exports supported slightly more than 5,000 jobs. Private employment has grown for 25 consecutive months and has increased by 4.1 million jobs over that period. Over the same period, manufacturing employment has risen by 466,000 jobs, the strongest growth for any 25 month period since September 1995. The NEI is presently on track to double exports to almost all the NEI priority markets with U.S. merchandise exports increasing by more than 100 percent to Turkey, by more than 50 percent to Brazil, South Africa, and Colombia, and by more than 30 percent to China, Indonesia, Vietnam and India between 2009 and 2011.



- **Understanding the Importance of Latin America to Our Long Term Economic Stability:** The President has identified Latin America as central to our NEI goals. He recognizes the importance of Latin America to the American economy as an economic engine close to home. Total two-way goods trade between the United States and the region was approximately \$800 billion dollars in 2011 and supported millions of jobs both in the U.S. and in Latin America. Despite the attention China gets, the U.S. exports more than three times as much to Latin America as we do to China, and our exports to the region will soon support two million jobs here in the U.S. To give just one statistic, each day more than a billion dollars in goods trade crosses the US-Mexico border. And of course Latin America goes well beyond Mexico, which is why we are also focusing keenly on deepening our trade with our partners through CAFTA, the Colombian and Panamanian Free Trade Agreements, and with Peru, Chile, and of course Brazil. The President's trip last year to Brazil shined a spotlight on this critical emerging partnership and the economic benefits that will come to both of our nations as we deepen our economic and commercial ties.
- **Supporting Free Trade Agreements with Colombia and Panama:** To ensure that these opportunities will be enhanced and solidified through tangible economic linkages, President Obama worked hard to pass the free trade agreements with both Colombia and Panama. U.S. trade agreements with Latin America already cover nine countries and \$471 billion in total goods trade. The Colombia and Panama agreements have only added to that impressive statistic. As part of this broader trade agenda, the Obama Administration has worked closely with the government of Colombia to address serious and immediate labor concerns. The result was an agreed "Action Plan Related to Labor Rights" that will lead to greatly enhanced labor rights in Colombia. The U.S.-Colombia



Trade Agreement, when fully implemented will expand U.S. goods exports alone by more than \$1.1 billion and give key U.S. goods and services duty free access in sectors from manufacturing to agriculture. It will increase U.S. GDP by \$2.5 billion and support thousands of additional U.S. jobs. Additionally, Panama is one of the fastest growing economies in Latin America, expanding 6.2 percent in 2010, with similar annual growth forecast through 2015. The U.S.-



Panama Trade Promotion Agreement will support American jobs, expand markets, and enhance U.S. competitiveness by eliminating tariffs and other barriers to U.S. exports and expanding trade between our two countries.

- **Providing Temporary Protected Status to Salvadorians in the US:** On January 9, 2012, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano extended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for [eligible nationals of El Salvador](#) for an additional 18 months. The 18-month extension allows TPS re-registrants to apply for a new Employment Authorization Document (EAD).
- **Protecting Biodiversity Along the US/Mexico Border:** On May 19, 2010 in a Joint Statement by the Cooperative Action for Conservation in the Big Bend/Río Bravo Region President Barack Obama and Mexico's President Felipe Calderón announced the progress on conservation in the Big Bend/Río Bravo Region, and reconfirmed their intent to continue and expand cooperation in this natural area of bi-national interest. Big Bend National Park and Río Grande Wild and Scenic River in the United States and the Protected Areas of Reserva de la Biosfera Maderas del Carmen, Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Cañon de Santa Elena, Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Ocampo, and Monumento Natural Río Bravo del Norte in Mexico together are one of the largest and most significant ecological complexes in North America. Increased cooperation in this



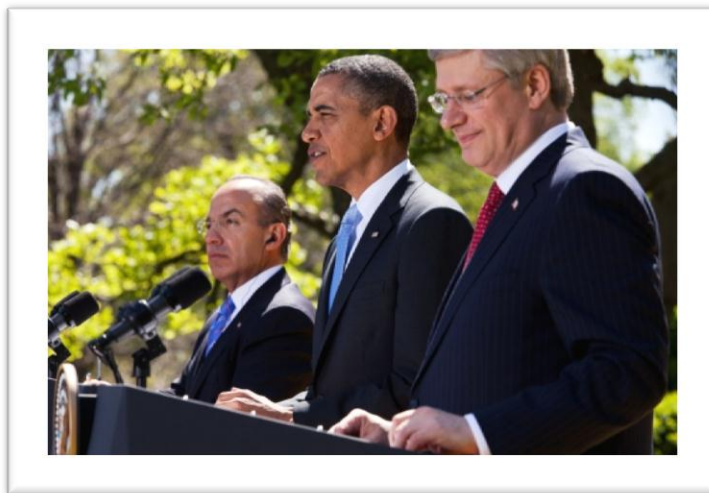
area will protect the region's extraordinary biological diversity, and support the conservation of this shared desert ecosystem for current and future generations.

- **Supporting Environmental Restoration Along the US/Mexico Border:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) works with our Mexican neighbors on the U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program ([Border 2012](#)), a collaboration between the United States and Mexico to improve the environment and protect the health of the nearly 12



million people living along the border. EPA and Mexico's Ministry for Environment (SEMARNAT) collaborate environmentally through a bi-national program Border 2012. Border 2012 is a U.S.-Mexico program that protects people's health and the environment for 10 states on both sides of the 2,000-mile border, including 26 U.S. tribes and seven groups of Mexican indigenous people. The Border 2012 program continues to be a model of cooperation and collaboration between neighboring nations and continues to achieve tangible, on-the-ground health and environmental results within U.S.-Mexico border communities.

- **Strengthening our Partnerships Through the Summit of the Americas and Travel to the Region:** The President participated in the Summit of the Americas less than 100 days into his administration and has twice traveled to Mexico, and visited Brazil, Chile, and El Salvador in 2011. Secretary of State Clinton has traveled to 18 countries in the Americas and nearly every member of the President's Cabinet has traveled to strengthen partnerships in the Western Hemisphere. In March 2011, President and Mrs. Obama travelled to Brazil, Chile and El Salvador to highlight the important relationship the United States has with Latin America. In April 2012 the President once again attended the Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia. At the last Summit of the Americas in Colombia, the President was proud to announce the Small Business Network of the Americas and Women's Entrepreneurship in the Americas (WE Americas) which will help unlock new markets for companies of all sizes, expand small business exports, and support the broad-based economic growth that is essential to our prosperity.
- **Supporting Travel, Trade, and Security with Mexico:** This Obama Administration has forged historic cross-border cooperation with the Government of Mexico to crack down on transnational criminal activity while facilitating legitimate travel and trade. Mexico is the U.S.'s third largest trading partner and second largest export market. Last year, we did nearly \$400 billion in two-way trade, translating to more than \$1 billion dollars a day on average. Notably, even goods imported from Mexico support U.S. jobs. That is because 64 percent of the content of Mexican goods sold in the U.S. are made from U.S. inputs. As in any relationship, there are challenges, but we are working hard to address





them. The International Trade Administration has launched a [Border Export Strategy](#), seeking ways to further facilitate cross-border trade. ITA has placed a senior director on the border full-time to increase our awareness and responsiveness to challenges U.S. companies face in the region. The ITA has also sent half a dozen trade missions to Mexico in a variety of sectors, including green energy/energy efficiency and health care, with more planned this year. These missions serve to showcase the ingenuity and know-how of U.S. companies.

- **Supporting Travel and Open Communication with Cuba:** The President and his Administration have taken a series of steps to continue efforts to reach out to the Cuban people in support of their desire to freely determine their country's future. In January 2011, the President announced that changes be made to regulations and policies governing purposeful travel; non-family remittances; and U.S. airports supporting licensed charter flights to and from Cuba. These measures will increase people-to-people contact; support civil society in Cuba; enhance the free flow of information to, from, and among the Cuban people; and help promote their independence from Cuban authorities. These steps build upon the President's April 2009 actions to help reunite divided Cuban families; to facilitate greater telecommunications with the Cuban people; and to increase humanitarian flows to Cuba. The President believes these actions, combined with the continuation of the embargo, are important steps in reaching the widely shared goal of a Cuba that respects the basic rights of all its citizens.
- **Rebuilding our relationship with Latin America:** As President Obama said in his recent visit to Chile, "Latin America is more important to the prosperity and security of the United States than ever before. With no other region does the United States have so many connections. And nowhere do we see that more than in the tens of millions of Hispanic Americans across the United States, who enrich our society, grow our economy and strengthen our nation every single day." For this reason, the President and the Administration are committed to rebuilding our relationship with our partners across Latin America and promoting prosperity across the region. Through the promotion of job creation and exports, the Administration has also supported and signed landmark trade agreements with Colombia and Panama.

[The President's Task Force on Puerto Rico Status:](#) On October 30, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13517, amending a Clinton Administration Executive Order to reinstate the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico Status (Task Force), which then convened in December 2009 with members from every Cabinet agency. President Obama directed the Task Force to maintain its focus on the status question, but added to the Task Force's responsibilities by seeking advice and recommendations on policies affecting Puerto Rico's economic development, including job creation, education, health care, and clean energy.

- **The Task Force Report and Recommendations:** Consistent with the President's commitment to open and transparent government, the Task Force organized two public hearings in San Juan, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. to hear directly from a broad



cross section of voices on the issues of status and economic development. In addition to hearing from hundreds of citizens the Task Force and White House staff also met with congressional leaders, Puerto Rican elected officials, and other interested parties to hear their views. After these public meetings, the Task Force issued their report that outlined a series of recommendations to the President and Congress. The first section provides recommendations relating to the question of Puerto Rico's status. Following the discussion of status, the Report is divided into three sections: (1) economic development overview and economic recommendations; (2) recommendations for building competitive industries; and (3) recommendations with respect to the island of Vieques. Each section sets out the specific issue, the recommendation designed to address that issue, and a realistic timeline for implementing the recommendation.

- **President Obama Visits Puerto Rico:** June 15, 2011 was more than an historic day for the residents of Puerto Rico. President Obama not only commemorated President John F. Kennedy's visit 50 years earlier but also reinforced the Administration's continued engagement with Puerto Rico. The visit was an opportunity to highlight the federal government's comprehensive approach to addressing critical issues that matter to the people of Puerto Rico. The President addressed specific ways the Administration continues to engage stakeholders on the most pressing challenges for Puerto Rico, saying: "First of all, we've addressed the question of political status. In March, a report from our presidential task force on Puerto Rican status provided a meaningful way forward on this question so that the residents of the island can determine their own future. And when the people of Puerto Rico make a clear decision, my administration will stand by you." The President added: "we've been trying to make sure that every family on the island can find work and make a living and provide for their children. That's why our economic plan and our health care reform included help for Puerto Rico. That's why we're increasing access to broadband and investing in education. That's why we're helping to grow local tourism and health care and clean-energy industries. We're giving Puerto Ricans the tools they need to build their own economic futures." The President's visit demonstrated that this Administration sees Puerto Rico as a critical component of what is needed in order to win the future. Members of the President's Administration accompanied him during the visit to lead an economic summit with local leaders to continue the dialogue about how the federal government can bolster the economic recovery of the island.
- **The Ongoing Work of the Task Force: As directed by the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico report,** members of the Task Force continue to work with leaders in Puerto Rico to implement the report's recommendations by conducting Departmental Summits (EPA, Commerce and Education have each conducted their summits) as well as to monitor the progress of the projects included in the report. The Task Force is committed to realizing the ambitious goals of the report as a means for achieving real progress and to advance the President's vision and commitment to the people of Puerto Rico.
 - In April 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency initiated the Vieques Sustainability Task Force. Working with other Federal partners, key stakeholders



in the Puerto Rican government, and community leaders, EPA has already begun to explore and execute many of the recommendations.

- In June 2011, as part of President Obama’s historic visit to Puerto Rico, the U.S. Department of Commerce led a White House Business Council Roundtable discussion led by Under Secretary for International Trade Francisco Sanchez. Commerce also hosted an Economic Summit in conjunction with the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce at which Puerto Rican business, government and community leaders to continue the dialogue about how the federal government can work with Puerto Rico to bolster the economic recovery of the Island. The [National Telecommunications and Information Administration](#) (NTIA) an agency within Commerce noted that [less than half](#) of all island residents have access to basic broadband service, which is needed by the citizens to apply for and get a job, access valuable education and healthcare information, and participate in today’s digital economy. To help fill this gap, NTIA awarded Puerto Rico two Recovery Act grants to expand and enhance broadband infrastructure. Deputy Assistant Secretary Anna Gómez travelled to San Juan in November 2011 to visit one of these projects. She joined members of Critical Hub staff and Puerto Rico Chief Information Officer Juan Eugenio Rodriguez on a tour of Critical Hub’s data center facilities in San Juan, part of its [Puerto Rico Bridge Initiative \(PRBI\) BTOP project](#). [Critical Hub Networks](#), which received a \$25.6 million grant, is expanding high-speed Internet access in underserved areas of Puerto Rico by establishing a broadband “bridge” to the United States mainland and deploying a high-capacity middle-mile network on the islands. Additionally, Critical Hub will also offer a 25 percent broadband discount to K-12 schools to help improve education and distance learning.
- Puerto Rico GDP Improvement Project: In August of 2010, Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce Secretary Pérez-Riera sent a letter to U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke inviting the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the methodologies used to estimate Puerto Rico’s gross domestic product (GDP). Secretary Locke accepted Secretary Pérez-Riera’s invitation and asked BEA to work with Puerto Rico to begin an assessment of Puerto Rico’s GDP statistics. In response, BEA began a collaborative effort with Puerto Rico to identify areas of potential improvement within the Puerto Rico’s economic statistics programs. In March of 2011, the President’s Task Force on Puerto Rico’s Status recommended that the U.S. Department of Commerce work with Puerto Rico to assess their national economic accounts and to provide proposals for modernizing their economic statistics programs. As a result of this recommendation, BEA established a team of senior staff to review the Puerto Rico statistics and to work with Puerto Rico to develop a formal set of recommended improvements. In November 2011, the BEA team met with their Puerto Rico counterparts and presented its recommendations for improving Puerto Rico’s GDP accounts.



- The Department of Education engaged island stakeholders to overcome the education challenges specific to Puerto Rico. Guided by the Task Force's recommendation, they worked with the White House and local stakeholders to hold a Puerto Rico Education Summit with Secretary Duncan on October 17, 2011 in San Juan. During that summit, the Department convened education experts, practitioners, elected officials, as well as the business and non-profit community to discuss the importance of improving public education in Puerto Rico. Secretary Duncan met with teachers, parents, and students during his visit. The Secretary is a firm believer that education is the best anti-poverty program. With programs like the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Race to the Top, Investing in Innovation, and Promise Neighborhoods, the Department has spurred innovation, and sparked a broad-based conversation about education reform. Puerto Rico, like so many places, faces real challenges to improve its public education system. The more than 450,000 K-12 public school students in Puerto Rico are counting on it.
- In September 2011, Department of Housing and Urban Development Assistant Secretary Mercedes Márquez and Governor Fortuño announced the release of



Puerto Rico's first island-wide Housing Plan. This plan was developed by the Governor's Housing Task Force with support and technical assistance from HUD. Since the release, the Housing Task Force has involved local housing officials, housing agencies, banks, and stakeholders to help begin implementation of that plan. In partnership with HUD, it has become clear that local stakeholders are making significant progress and are currently working to align funding sources under similar standards and timelines to leverage multiple sources of funding for affordable housing and community development.

- The Department of Justice has been working with Puerto Rico to provide training and technical assistance for specific areas of need and to begin to develop and



implement a long-term strategy to improve public safety in Puerto Rico. Since 2009, the Department has invested over \$87 million in grants in Puerto Rico, of which over \$13 million supports the hiring of law enforcement officers and technology support; more than \$11.5 million supports programs combating violence against women; and more than \$63 million supports programs including those aimed at reducing crime, curtailing underage drinking, improving forensic science and medical examiner services, reducing juvenile offending, and enhancing victim services and juvenile justice programs. Furthermore, the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and State have convened an interagency working group to develop a plan to improve collaboration and coordination, and to determine the most effective way to leverage federal government programs toward the goal of a safer Puerto Rico.

- **President Obama Signs Puerto Rico Disaster Relief Declaration:** In October 2011 the President declared that a major disaster existed in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the areas struck by severe storms, flooding, mudslides, and landslides associated with Tropical Storm Otto. Federal funding was made available to the Commonwealth, eligible municipalities and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation, emergency work, the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storms, flooding, mudslides, and landslides associated with the storm.
- **Department of Transportation, Working Toward an America of Opportunity:** Secretary Ray LaHood in his November 21, 2011 blog post related to the issue of Puerto Rico highlighted the challenges that all Americans, including Puerto Ricans face in this tough economy. He commented that DOT is also fighting to create jobs, spur economic development, and shore up the nation's economic competitiveness. Transportation has put tens of thousands of people back to work on 15,000 transportation projects in all 50 states and in Puerto Rico. By the year's end, Transportation will announce another round of competitive TIGER grants that will fund even more job-creating projects to solve key transportation challenges. Governor Fortuño of Puerto Rico and Secretary LaHood discussed the island's transportation needs and future possibilities. Secretary LaHood assured him that the Obama Administration is looking forward to a new and enduring partnership.

Celebrating Our Nation's Latino Heritage: From the deep-rooted history in the southwest, to newly arrived communities, Hispanics and Latinos have contributed greatly to the history and fabric of our nation.

- **Recognizing the Contributions of Latinos to American History:** The Forty Acres compound in Delano, California was designated as a National Historic Landmark. The site is associated with the life and career of Cesar Chavez, and the farmworker movement. Only 4 percent of all National Landmarks and National Registered sites reflect Latinos and other minorities. In February 2011, Secretary Salazar officially dedicated the site a national historic landmark.



- **Creating the American Latino Heritage Initiative:** In 2011, the Department of the Interior (DOI) launched the American Latino Heritage Initiative to explore ways to better recognize the countless contributions Latinos have made to our country. Under the direction of Secretary Salazar, the National Park Service is undertaking the preparation of the American Latino Theme Study that will increase opportunities for the public to learn about the role of American Latinos in the development of the nation. The theme study will assist communities and government agencies with identifying and evaluating Latino-related places for their historical significance in communities nationwide and the potential nomination of these places to the National Register of Historic Places and for National Historic Landmark designation.



- **Appointing the National Museum of the American Latino Commission:** This bipartisan Commission was created by Congress, whose members were appointed by President Obama, to study the potential creation of a national museum of the American Latino in Washington, DC. The Commission convened stakeholders in Latino communities across the country to develop its research and analysis, which resulted in a final report to Congress and the President with a comprehensive set of findings and recommendations. The final report recommended that Congress establish within the Smithsonian Institution a museum to be known as the Smithsonian American Latino Museum.

For more information on any of these issues, please visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov>.



Making Strides: This is just a sample of the work being done by the Obama Administration and the impact we are having in communities across the country. We have made great strides in the last 3 and a half years; however we still have much more to do. The President will continue to work hard every single day to moving our country forward for Hispanics and all Americans.

White House Websites:

- Hispanic Webpage: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/hispanicWhitehouse.gov/Hispanic>
- Immigration Webpage: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/immigration>
- White House en Español: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/espanolWhitehouse.gov/espanol>

On Jobs and the Economy:

- U.S. Department of Labor: <http://www.dol.gov/>
 - Latinos in the Workforce Report
<http://www.dol.gov/sec/media/reports/HispanicLaborForce/HispanicLaborForce.pdf>
 - Job Corps program - <http://www.jobcorps.gov/home.aspx>
 - Information on Career One-Stop centers – <http://www.careeronestop.org/>
 - My Skills My Future Career tool - <http://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>
 - My Next Move Career Tool - <http://www.mynextmove.org/>
- U.S. Minority Business Development Agency – <http://www.mbda.gov/>
- U.S. Small Business Administration – <http://www.sba.gov>
 - Government Resources for Hispanic Entrepreneurs
community.sba.gov/community/blogs/community-blogs/small-business-matters/latinos-business-government-resources-hispanic-entrepreneurs-0
 - Hispanic-Owned Small Businesses Recognized for National Small Business Week
www.sba.gov/content/five-hispanic-owned-small-businesses-be-recognized-during-national-small-business-week
 - Government Contracting Classroom – [New On-line Training Resource](#)
- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - <http://www.recovery.gov/>
- Wall Street/Financial Reform - <http://www.financialstability.gov/>



- Community Development Financial Institutions Fund - <http://www.cdfifund.gov/>
- Payroll Tax Benefits: www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/09/14/background-presidents-remarks-congressional-hispanic-caucus-institutes-3
- President Obama's State of the Union 2012: Blueprint for An America Built to Last: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/blueprint_for_an_america_built_to_last.pdf

On Education:

- U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/>
- Office for Civil Rights - Know Your Rights:
 - English: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/know.html>
 - Spanish: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/list-sp.html>
- Office of English Language Acquisition (English Learners site) <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/index.html>
- National Center for Education Statistics: nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=16
- Student Loans Informational Portal: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp>
- State NCLB Flexibility and waivers: <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2011/11/answers-to-teachers-questions-about-esea-flexibility-aka-waivers/>
- Keeping Teachers Off the Unemployment Line <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2011/10/keeping-teachers-off-the-unemployment-line/>
- We Can't Wait to Help America's Graduates: <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2011/10/we-cant-wait-to-help-americas-graduates/>
- Loan repayment & IBR <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2011/10/arne-on-the-income-based-repayment-program-and-community-colleges/>
- Race to the Top <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/index.html>
- The White House Initiative for Excellence in Education for Hispanic Americans <http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/list/hispanic-initiative/index.html>
- Winning the Future – Improving Education for the Latino Community: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/WinningTheFutureImprovingLatinoEducation.pdf
- President Obama's Blueprint for Keeping College Affordable: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/01/27/fact-sheet-president-obama-s-blueprint-keeping-college-affordable-and-wi>
- Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/08/24/race-top-early-learning-challenge>
- Protecting Pell Grants <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/higher-education/investing-in-pell-grants-to-make-college-affordable>

On Healthy Living and Health Care:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.hhs.gov/>
 - Office of Minority Health -



<http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/>

- Affordable Care Act Implementation
 - English: <http://www.healthcare.gov>
 - Spanish: <http://www.cuidadodesalud.gov/>
- My Plate – Healthy Eating/Nutrition Guidelines:
 - English: www.myplate.gov
 - Spanish: <http://www.choosemyplate.gov/en-espanol.html>
- La Mesa Completa: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/PressReleases/2011/0317.htm>

On Energy

- U.S. Department of Energy: <http://www.doe.gov/>
 - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program – <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/eeebg.html>
 - Weatherization Assistance Program - <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/wap.html>
 - Energy Education & Workforce Development - <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/education/>
 - in Spanish: http://www1.eere.energy.gov/library/pdfs/corporate_green_jobs_fs_spanish.pdf
 - Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists - http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/scied/sci_ed.htm

On Housing, Community Investment and Development

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – <http://www.hud.gov/>
 - Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grants: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs/neighborhoodspg
 - Making Homeownership Affordable: <http://www.makinghomeaffordable.gov/pages/default.aspx>
 - Loan Scam: “Know it. Avoid it. Report it” - http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/prevent_loan_scams
- The White House Office of Urban Affairs - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oua>
- Community Development Financial Institution Fund - <http://www.cdfifund.org/>
- Strong Cities, Strong Communities: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/07/11/obama-administration-launches-strong-cities-strong-communities-support-1>
- Strong Cities, Strong Communities Fellowship: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/12/02/strong-cities-strong-communities-fellowship-program>

On Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

- U.S. Department of Justice – <http://www.justice.gov/>



- Civil Rights Division - <http://www.justice.gov/crt/>
- Federal Interagency Working Group on Limited English Proficiency
<http://www.justice.gov/crt/lep>
- Fair Housing – <http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo>
- How to File a Complaint with the Education Office for Civil Rights
 - Spanish: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaints-how-sp.html>
 - English: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaints-how.html>
- Policy Guidance Regarding Harassment/Bullying and Related Documents
 - Spanish - <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201010-sp.pdf>
 - English - <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201010.pdf>
- Policy Guidance Regarding Right of All Students, Irrespective of Immigration Status, to Attend Public Elementary and Secondary Schools
 - Spanish
<http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/edu/documents/plylerlettersspanish.pdf>
 - English - <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201101.pdf>

On Immigration:

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security – <http://www.dhs.gov/>
 - How to File a Civil Rights Complaint:
http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/structure/gc_1273526572731.shtm
 - United States Citizenship and Immigration Service
 - Citizenship Resource Center:
<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/citizenship>
 - Notario Fraud: www.uscis.gov/avoidscams
 - Case Status Update: <https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/Dashboard.do>
 - Information on deferred action for immigrant youth:
<http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/20120612-napolitano-announces-deferred-action-process-for-young-people.shtm>
 - Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman:
<http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/structure/cisomb.shtm>
 - U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement: <http://www.ice.gov/>
 - Online Detainee Locator: <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/homePage.do>
- President's Blueprint on Immigration Reform: Building a 21st Century Immigration System:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/immigration_blueprint.pdf
- The White House Website on Immigration: www.whitehouse.gov/immigration

On Protecting our Environment:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – <http://www.epa.gov/>
 - Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898:



<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources/publications/interagency/ej-mou-2011-08.pdf>

- U.S. Department of Interior – www.doi.gov

On Puerto Rico's Self Determination and Economic Development

- President's Task Force on Puerto Rico:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/iga/puerto-rico>
- Report by President's Task Force on Puerto Rico:
 - English:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/Puerto_Rico_Task_Force_Report.pdf
 - Spanish:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/Puerto_Rico_Report_Espanol.pdf

On Latin America:

- U.S.–Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement:
 - Benefits of Colombia Trade Agreement:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/email-files/Colombia_Trade_Agreement_Overview.pdf
 - Colombian Trade Agreement Facts: <http://www.ustr.gov/uscolombiatpa/facts>
- U.S. –Panama Trade Promotion Agreement:
 - Benefits of Panama Trade Agreement
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/panama_trade_agreement_benefits.pdf
 - Panama Trade Agreement Facts: <http://www.ustr.gov/uspanamatpa/facts>
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
 - TPS Extended for Salvadorans, [click here](#).
 - Countries Currently Designated for TPS, [click here](#).
- U.S. Mexico agreement with the Department of Interior:
<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=262524>