The Latino Census Network: An Introduction

The Latino Census Network is a national informational network on Census issues affecting the Latino community, with a focus on preparations for the 2010 Census. More than 30 national and regional Latino organizations are affiliates of the Network, along with hundreds of individuals throughout the United States and Puerto Rico who are on our mailing list. The Network is a project of the National Institute for Latino Policy (NiLP), a nonprofit and nonpartisan policy center, to work toward the accurate count of the Latino community in the 2010 Census and beyond with the objectives of:

- Educating the Latino community about the importance of the Census to its political, economic and cultural empowerment
- Providing the Census Bureau with ongoing Latino input on the 2010 Census and other Census Bureau issues and activities
- Providing a united Latino voice on issues facing the Census Bureau and statistical policies affecting the Latino community to the Census Bureau, the US Congress and the Executive Branch, as well as other players.
- Serving as an information clearinghouse on Census issues affecting the Latino community
- Convening Latino leaders and organizations to address Census issues in a timely manner and promoting the mobilization of Latino leaders and organizations for a full count of Latinos in the 2010 Census
- Promoting ways to increase resources available to grassroots Latino community organizations from government and philanthropy to increase their ability to mobilize their communities to overcome the undercount
- Assuring that the confidentiality of information collected by the Census of individuals is fully protected and that the Latino community is fully apprised of these protections
- Developing ways to assure that the Latino community is able to fully utilize the data generated by the 2010 Census and other Census surveys and activities
- Providing timely research on technical Census issues affecting the Latino community

The Latino Census Network is doing these things by:

- Publishing the Latino Census Network eNewsletter
- Issuing email bulletins on breaking news and issues concerning the Census
- Coordinating the Latino Census Communications Group to promote common messaging and other communications to promote Latino participation in the 2010 Census
- The development of a Latino Census Agenda that summarizes the many issues of concern to the Latino community on the Census, from adequate community participation in the planning for the 2010 Census, address the
problem of the serious underrepresentation of Latinos on the Census Bureau work force, the improvement of the Hispanic, race, language and other questions, fairer treatment of Latinos in the US territories in the national statistics, and other issues.

- The convening of a national conference in late 2009 to coordinate the promotion of Latino participation in the 2010 Census and beyond, including preparing for the start of the redistricting process in 2011.
- Promoting the convening of funders briefings to encourage foundations and corporations to provide funding at the grassroots level for outreach in Latino communities
- The development in 2009 of local chapters of the Latino Census Network to promote local coordination and communications with the Census Bureau’s regional offices

Some of the work of the Latino Census Network is facilitated by the participation of the National Institute for Latino Policy in a number of Census Bureau programs. These include our participation as an official repository of Census data with our role as a Census Information Center (CIC); NiLP is a member of this program’s National Steering Committee. We were also appointed by the Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez to serve on the Census Advisory Committee on the Hispanic Population.

As an affiliate of the Latino Census Network, your organization will be listed as an affiliate in all publications and communications of the Network. You will be asked to participate in discussions on Latino Census issues in the development of a national agenda for change.

If, as an individual, you are interesting in joining the mailing list of the Latino Census Network, you can sign on to the NiLP list on our website at www.latinopolicy.org.

If your organization, church or business would like to be listed as an affiliate of the Latino Census Network to support our agenda, write to Angelo Falcón at afalcon@latinopolicy.org.

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