



# 2025 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Hispanic Unity of Florida (HUF) was founded in **1982** by community leaders to guide newcomers to the U.S. on their journey to their American dream. With 12 programs and 30+ services offered in up to four languages, HUF serves Florida's diverse community. Since its inception, HUF has helped more than 580,000 individuals.

## OUR VISION

Everyone is empowered to live The American Dream.

## OUR MISSION

Empowering immigrants and others to become self-sufficient, productive, and civically engaged.

## WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Hispanic Unity of Florida is seeking support for its **Workforce Development programs**, which include vocational training, skill-building initiatives, career counseling, and opportunities for family-sustaining employment. These programs are designed to empower low-wage working families by helping them develop the skills needed to secure high-wage jobs, ultimately leading to economic self-sustainability. Additionally, the programs assist families in transitioning to higher incomes while preventing the loss of public benefits as they progress economically.
- **Apprenticeship programs support.** Supporting apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs is an investment in Florida's economic growth. These programs offer skills training, connect individuals with employment opportunities, and help bridge the skills gap, setting people up for economic self-sustainability. Continued state support is crucial for the success of these initiatives.
- Support economic development projects focused on small business and entrepreneurship programs, such as the **Regional Entrepreneurship Centers and the Small Business Loan Fund**. These initiatives provide technical assistance, training, and lending to expand access to capital for small businesses – particularly those owned by minorities and women – throughout the state.



## EDUCATION

- **Support Increased Funding for Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK):** Advocate for additional funding to bolster programs like **HUF's Unity 4Kids Preschool**, which provide essential educational and enrichment opportunities. These initiatives are crucial for supporting low-wage working families while promoting children's readiness and success in school.
- **Maintain and Expand Funding for the School Readiness Program:** Advocate for sustained and enhanced funding to allow more eligible families to participate.

## HEALTH

- Support the elimination of the five-year residency in Florida rule for pregnant woman who are Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR's) to access Medicaid.
- Support a state implemented affordable healthcare coverage plan for uninsured Floridians.

## QUESTIONS? STAY CONNECTED!



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