

Hispanic Unity of Florida 2024 Policy Priorities & Recommendations



Health

All individuals have access to affordable, high quality, culturally, and linguistically appropriate care in a timely manner

Hispanic Unity of Florida's (HUF) Health and Well-Being is a program designed to nurture physical, mental, and emotional health, promoting a thriving community that embodies vitality and resilience. From healthcare access and mental health support to wellness education and preventive programs, our offerings aim to empower individuals to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Recommendations

- Support Culturally Appropriate Mental Health Counseling.
- Support the elimination of the five-year residency in Florida rule for Legal Permanent Residents to access Medicaid.
- Support access to affordable healthcare, as per the Affordable Care Act, to low-income adults under 138% of the Federal Poverty Line.

Economic Development

Strong, equitable, inclusive economies deliver broad-based prosperity to their residents.

HUF assists clients through its Center for Working Families (CWF) program that uses a two-generation (2Gen) approach that builds family well-being and a legacy of educational and economic prosperity by intentionally and simultaneously working with children and the adults in their lives together.

Recommendations

- Support Workforce Development: Support workforce, apprenticeship, skill building programs and family-sustaining employment opportunities that support low-income families in developing necessary skills to attain high-wage jobs.
- Support Affordable Housing: The significant growth of severely cost-burdened renters is most pressing problem due to three market conditions:
 1. The increasing demand for renter housing resulting in low vacancy rates and a spiraling increase in rent prices.
 2. The lack of affordable rental housing production.
 3. Rent prices are increasing faster than wages.

Education

Each child receives what they need to develop to their full academic and social potential.

Recommendations

- Prioritize early childhood education. The Office of Early Learning (OEL) must engage with early learning stakeholders across the state to determine the plan they will submit to the Legislature and the Administration for Children and Families for use of these funds.
- Support boosting funding for both School Readiness and the Voluntary Pre-K program to better serve more families and buoy childcare operators.



About HUF

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 520,000 individuals.



Mission

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

Our 2022 Impact



Center For Working Families

The Center for Working Families (CWF) Department aids low to middle-income families in achieving financial stability. Key to this approach is the coordination of three core service strands at a single, convenient location. HUF offers income support application assistance, workforce education, job placement, and money management sessions, along with strategies for building generational wealth, access to healthcare, and related support services to advance the wellbeing of individuals and families.



Education

HUF is committed to creating a positive learning environment that promotes its values, such as compassion, respect, dignity, collaboration, and cultural awareness with the help of the Education Department HUF's education programs empower families, promote healthy behaviors and lead to a pathway of success. Our 2Gen approach provides resources that support academic, well-being, emotional and economic mobility for both students and their families.



Civic Engagement

The Civic Engagement Department promotes self-sufficiency through civic participation, encourages voting involvement, and strengthens community capacity. It guides residents in learning about their new country, advocating for their needs, and pursuing citizenship. The Department offers diverse immigration services, now with official recognition and accreditation from the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security.



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