

NATIONAL HISPANIC/LATINX HEALTH POLICY AGENDA 2020-2024

Supplement of National Community Health Policy Agenda

Overall Goals and Objectives National Hispanic/Latinx Leadership Summit

Summit's Overarching Goals

The four principal goals are as follows:

1. **Build a national consensus** on the National Hispanic/Latinx Health Policy Agenda. This goal will be met when attendees at the March 2020 summit agree to adopt an implementation plan with prioritized action steps and concrete plans to advance our National Health Policy Agenda.
2. **Educate and engage opinion leaders** (e.g., policy makers and legislators, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Office of Minority Health, and civic, religious, and media, leaders) about the National Hispanic/Latinx Health Policy Agenda and build support for its implementation. A dissemination and mobilization plan will be developed and customized for local, county, state, and territory action plans.
3. **Identify initial priority actions** in the National Hispanic/Latinx Health Policy Agenda for 2020. During the March 2020 summit, the attendees will identify two or three action items to form the basis for national-level work in 2020–2021 and the next four years (2020-2024).
4. **Consolidate and empower the National Hispanic/Latinx Leadership Network** to monitor implementation, to support state-, county-, and city agenda-setting efforts and accountability at the federal level.

Hispanic/Latinx Response in 2018–2019: In early 2018, the Latino Commission on AIDS established several CBOs to develop a national sign-on letter and a call to action in response to the increase in HIV infections among Hispanics/Latinx, particularly young gay/bi Latino men and cis and trans Latina women, as reported by the CDC in its 2016 surveillance report. The letter was addressed to the CDC's Division of HIV Prevention (DHAP) and signed by more than 180 organizations and 180 individuals expressing their concerns and requesting immediate action to address this crisis.

Consequently, on August 27, 2018, a national meeting took place in Atlanta, GA, to discuss the HIV crisis affecting Hispanics/Latinx communities. The meeting, hosted by the National Hispanic Medical Association, was attended by Latino leaders and Latino-serving CBOs from across the many regions and jurisdictions impacted by HIV, including Puerto Rico. Additionally, leaders and program officers in the CDC's Division of HIV Prevention, headed by Dr. Eugene McCray, attended. The primary goal of the meeting was to assess, discuss, and identify action steps to address the alarming data released by the CDC. The meeting concluded with several recommendations, action steps, and follow-up meetings and briefings to understand the challenges associated with the unique, diverse realities of Hispanic/Latinx communities. The participants recognized the devastation

of HIV, barriers to prevention and care services, and impacts of stigma, immigration, culture, race, research, and social determinants of health on Hispanic/Latinx in the U.S., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The outcome of this national meeting was a call for the formation of a National Organizing Committee to launch a process to develop a national Hispanic/Latinx Health Agenda focused on strengthening leadership. The Latino Commission on AIDS led this national effort. The National Organizing Committee (see attached list of current member organizations) held its first face-to-face meeting at the U.S. Conference on AIDS in Orlando, FL, in September 2018, where participants who could not attend the Atlanta meeting in August 2018 were briefed on the results and agreed to launch a process to develop the agenda and organize a national summit. The National Organizing Committee agreed to form several workgroups to develop the agenda and create a website to coordinate the national summit.

National Organizing Committee: In November 2018, the Latino Commission on AIDS established the national steering and planning committees with more than 80 leaders from various jurisdictions representing Hispanic/Latinx communities in the U.S. and Puerto Rico affected by HIV, hepatitis, and STI. The committee provided regional leadership to the agenda-setting process and the organization of the national health policy summit.

The steering committee met via monthly calls with the full national organizing committee, which expanded the steering committee with members representing different jurisdictions and populations at risk. The committees guided the planning process to organize the summit and to monitor and implement the action plan, provided updates on the agenda development, and established national priority issues.

Work Groups: In early 2019, the national organizing committee began the planning process and created work groups to outline key components of the national agenda. The work group stage of this process can be viewed as both a national assessment and community organizing. While collecting information and trends about HIV, viral hepatitis, and STI in Hispanic/Latinx communities was a worthy exercise, building a consensus on the issues among community partners also provided the foundation for the legitimacy of the recommendations and action steps. To construct the agenda, the national organizing committee convened ten work groups focused on: (1) prevention; (2) access to health care; (3) research and data; (4) the U.S. South; (5) Puerto Rico; (6) stigma; (7) the federal plan to end the HIV epidemic by 2030; (8) immigration and migration; (9) mental health; and (10) substance use.

The work group members included community leaders, providers, CBOs, people living with HIV, and people impacted by viral hepatitis and other health conditions. They began to hold monthly meetings via conference calls in early April 2019. Each work group took the responsibility to recruit persons interested in participating in the process for its specific subject.

Call to Action: As part of the early process in Spring 2018, the national organizing committee issued a press release announcing the beginning of the national process to develop a national agenda and the 2020 national summit in Washington, D.C. The two-page document outlined the framework for the upcoming Hispanic/Latinx Health Action Agenda Summit. All members of the national organizing committee were invited to distribute the press release and to inform Congress members about the process. The purpose of the press release was to galvanize press and media attention for the summit and to conduct key meetings with elected officials throughout 2019.

The health agenda was built on the promise of communities to create opportunities for our members and the broader planning committee to achieve their full health potential. Identifying our health issues have led to developing many creative, forward-looking, bold, community-led solutions to achieve health equity.

Chronology Of Events That Led To The National Summit In March 2020

2018

Early 2018

- Initial informal conversations among community leaders and Hispanic/Latinx-serving and Latino-led organizations
- Organizations' brainstorming and strategizing on how to have impacts on the increasing incidence of HIV, viral hepatitis, and STI in our communities
- Early 2018 decision to draft a call to action letter to request a CDC/DHAP meeting to discuss the urgency of addressing new HIV infections among Hispanic/Latinx
- Decision to establish a national steering committee to bring together national representatives
- Call to action letter signed by more than 180 organizations nationally and 180 individuals
- Response from the CDC/DHAP to meet with the leaders who developed the draft sign-on national letter

August 2018

- First meeting organized by the CDC/DHAP and hosted by the National Hispanic Medical Association in Atlanta, GA

September 2018

- First face-to-face follow-up meeting at United States Conference on AIDS 2018
- Continued planning calls with the CDC/DHAP to follow up

October 2018

- Decision to organize a National Hispanic/Latinx Health Leadership Summit in 2020
- Proposal to establish a Hispanic/Latinx Health Agenda on HIV, viral hepatitis, STI, and other health conditions

November 2018

- Development of a planning committee for the National Hispanic/Latinx Health Leadership Summit in 2020

2019

- On-going planning committee calls for the National Hispanic/Latinx Health Leadership Summit in 2020

March 2019

- Second face-to-face follow-up meeting with CDC/DHAP in Atlanta, GA
- Jurisdictional work in the areas most impacted by HIV among Hispanic/Latinx: Arizona, California, Florida, New York, Puerto Rico, Texas, Illinois and Washington, D.C.

September 2019

- Presence at USCA 2019

October 2019

- Release of "The Invisible US Hispanic/Latino HIV Crisis: Addressing Gaps in the National Response"

2020

March 2020

- National Hispanic/Latinx Health Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., March 2–3, 2020

Follow-Up

- Priority action steps, 2020–2021
- Implementation, monitoring and evaluation plan, 2020–2024