



2018 Policy Recommendations

1) Keep Iowa’s children, families and communities safe.

The estimated Latino population in Iowa as of July 1, 2016, was 182,606. This translates into a 121.4 % rapid growth from 2000 to 2016. More than 57,000 Latino youth were enrolled in Iowa’s elementary and high schools during the 2016-2017 school year. Most of these children are U.S. citizens; some have undocumented parents. Senate File 481 would require local law enforcement to assist with federal immigration enforcement activities and allow local police to inquire about the immigration status of a person under detention or arrest. The Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs is concerned that police assistance with federal enforcement efforts would prevent Latinos from reporting crimes, cooperating with police, or seeking police protection. SF481 would break down the confidence and trust between law enforcement and the diverse communities they serve and protect.

2) Provide driver’s licenses for all residents of Iowa, regardless of immigration status.

Providing driver licenses for all Iowa residents, regardless of immigration status, ensures public safety. Driver licenses contain addresses and other identifiable information, helps drivers understand the rules and responsibilities of the road through a proficiency examination, and reduces the number of insured motorist because drivers are more likely to register their vehicle and obtain adequate insurance. Having a driver’s license allows residents to engage in Iowa’s economic, social and cultural life.

3) Increase the budget for the Iowa Department of Human Rights’ Division of Community Advocacy and Services (CAS).

The CAS division carries out the important work of building resourcefulness among Iowans by:

- Building capacity for people to become agents of change in their communities.
• Helping with navigation for those who need access to services.
• Creating resourcefulness and improving systems for youth through a focus on developing non-traditional leaders.
• Elevating issues, ideas, cultures and contributions to improve connection among all Iowans.

The Commission on Latino Affairs relies on Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR) staff to carry out much of the work identified by the Commission. Increasing the DHR budget would preserve programs and services that benefit our most vulnerable populations.

If you have any questions please contact the Office of Latino Affairs 515-481-4080 or Sonia.Reyes-Snyder@iowa.gov

The Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs is a governor-appointed Commission comprised of public members who:

Study opportunities and changing needs of the Latino population of this state;

Serve as a liaison between the Department and the public;

Recommend legislative and executive action to the General Assembly and Governor;

Establish advisory committees, work groups of other coalitions to achieve goals.

2018 Commission Members

Jeannette Brown, Chair
Des Moines, Iowa

Marlu Abarca, Vice Chair
Des Moines, Iowa

Lorena Gingerich, Secretary
West Branch, Iowa

Alejandro Pino
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Michelle Reuss
Washington, Iowa

Juan Rodriguez
Des Moines, Iowa

San Wong, Director
Iowa Department of Human Rights
Ex-Officio

Office of Latino Affairs
Sonia Reyes-Snyder