

2026 FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES

Spotlight on MINNESOTA

IMMIGRATION

Federal Immigration Operations

Indiscriminate mass apprehension operations conducted by the federal government have led to widespread community disruption, severe economic damage, and numerous deaths, including of U.S. citizens.

- *For instance: The federal government's hostile crackdown against communities in Minnesota has proven devastating - socially and economically. Schools have lost pupils, and Main St. businesses have lost millions of dollars. All the while, since January 2025, over 55 percent of those arrested by federal immigration enforcement authorities in Minnesota have had no criminal history.*
- **Hispanic Federation urges Congress to impose meaningful guardrails on federal immigration enforcement operations, including standard protocols for clearly visible identification of federal agents, ending roving patrols outside of their jurisdiction, restoring pre-arrest approval and judicial warrant requirements, and accountability measures for violations of protocol, including disciplinary actions and review panels.**

Due Process

The Administration's enforcement efforts have encroached heavily on constitutional rights, perhaps none more so than the right to due process under the law. More than 400 federal judges have ruled roughly 4,500 recent instances of immigrant detention illegal, an unsurprising outcome in the face of revelations like DHS guidance instructing agents to circumvent the need for signed judicial warrants for home entry.

- *For instance: There has been perhaps no more poignant a symbol of the recent erosion of due process rights in the face of the growing federal crackdown against immigrant communities than the killings of Renée Good and Alex Pretti. Such abuses have become only too common among Latino and vulnerable communities, however. After Supreme Court Judge Brett Kavanaugh published a concurring opinion giving ICE agents the authority to stop and question anyone they suspect of being undocumented based on their appearance or language, Minnesota saw a rise in street arrests of immigrants by federal authorities. Among these violations have been deportation despite standing protections and cross-country transportation of those in custody. While Minnesota officials have been active in seeking to head off such abuses, the sheer extent of violations clarifies just how much work remains to be done.*
- **Hispanic Federation demands Congress take steps to restore basic constitutional rights to due process for those entailed within federal enforcement operations, including timely legal representation, fair hearings, vetted review processes to regularly assess detention legality and necessity, and adequate funding to address the continuous backlog at USCIS.**

Detention Overhaul

A rapid expansion of detention infrastructure has led to widespread reports of harm amid unsafe conditions. The last year has seen new records broken in fatalities among those held in immigration detention, all while the number of those held without criminal convictions has risen 25-fold. As the ranks of those detained expands rapidly, communities, news outlets, and lawmakers alike have reported horrifying conditions, including woefully inadequate access to medical treatment and rampant sexual abuse.

- *For instance: Immigration agents in a neighboring state detained a man with a rare genetic disorder who had immigrated to Minnesota more than a decade ago and had a pending asylum case. In turn, despite both that case and a medical condition that "causes his skin to blister and peel easily," those agents*

transported him to a detention facility in Minnesota, where he was subjected to inhumane conditions. There, he had difficulty staying healthy and even eating as a result of his condition.

- Hispanic Federation exhorts Congress implement measures reforming the conditions and processes of immigrant detention like suspending the practice of family separation, enforcing standards of access to hygiene and health care, regular health and wellness inspections, and creating enforceable mechanisms by which detainees may report abuses.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Since 1990, Hispanic Federation has worked relentlessly to protect and advance immigrant rights. Our early efforts focused on local advocacy and collaborations with member agencies to develop citizenship campaigns. Today, Hispanic Federation has expanded its focus to become a national provider of immigrant integration and other direct services as well as a national advocate for progressive immigration reforms. Last year alone, we helped more than 60,000 immigrant families everything from applications for citizenship and direct relief to refugees and asylees, to educational support for immigrant children and families.

HEALTH CARE

Health Care Access

Recent legislative and executive actions are poised to strip health care coverage from upwards of 11 million Americans, which will prove catastrophic not only to vulnerable communities but also underlying health care infrastructure that supports all Americans from home to school to the workplace.

- *For instance, the elimination of ACA marketplace plan subsidies has led to an exorbitant increase in out-of-pocket premium payments for the average Latino family in Minnesota, while Medicaid funds are slated to decline by \$19bn over the next decade.*
- Hispanic Federation demands Congress reverse looming and actualized funding cuts to key health care access programs like Medicaid and Affordable Care Act marketplace plan subsidies to protect millions of Americans from losing health care coverage through no fault of their own.

Vaccines

Repeated real-world trials and biological theory render it indisputable that vaccines work. Mass immunization campaigns reduce incidence of illness and hospitalization, supporting healthy, productive living for all, including those living with immunocompromising conditions.

- *For instance, despite resisting some of the worst declines in vaccination rate across the nation, Minnesota's childhood immunization rates nevertheless fallen for the last several years. Now, only approximately 80 percent of Minnesota two-year-olds are fully vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis – far below the HP2030 target of 90 percent – while the mumps, measles, and rubella vaccination rate has fallen to 86 percent, markedly below the 95 percent herd immunity threshold, risking the health of our state's most vulnerable populations.*
- Hispanic Federation thereby urges Congress to redouble its commitment to vaccination as an essential pillar of public health through policies including public information and outreach campaigns, and proper funding for vaccines, immunizations, and research support.

Health Care Provider Resources

Our communities rely on access to well-funded health care facilities and well-trained medical professionals. Reductions in federal funding going to health care facilities, particularly rural health care facilities, and proposed caps to federal financial aid for graduate students pursuing degrees like nursing are likely to lead to diminished availability of health resources.

- *For instance, 20 percent of Minnesota's rural hospitals are at risk of closing in the near term, with many more facing reduction in services. Simultaneously, the state faces a projected shortfall of over four thousand nurses over the next few years alone.*

- Hispanic Federation exhorts Congress to appropriate wider, targeted funding to support the staffing and maintenance of health care facilities for underserved and rural communities and to reduce cost barriers for all students pursuing degrees in health care.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Hispanic Federation offers several preventative health and wellness resources and programs under its Ser Saludable initiative that focuses on maintaining healthy lifestyles in the Latino communities by addressing disparities, increasing physical activities, providing access to vaccines, managing chronic diseases to increase overall quality of life, and more. Through these programs, Hispanic Federation has aided more than 100,000 families last year alone.

AI AND TECH

Digital Infrastructure Investments that Expand Access and Opportunity

Only two in three Hispanic adults have home broadband and a computer at home, leaving millions disconnected. The bipartisan Digital Equity Act was poised to close longstanding gaps in internet access and digital skills, yet the administration has moved to dismantle it before its promise could be realized.

- *For instance, across Minnesota, over \$27 million dollars in Digital Equity Act funding have been cancelled, affecting more than 4,000,000 people statewide. Likewise, nearly 250,000 households across the state were dependent upon Affordable Connective Program funding for broadband access, which has now been jeopardized.*
- Hispanic Federation urges Congress to expand broadband programs and digital infrastructure investments through the Digital Equity Act, the BEAD program, Universal Service Fund and to create a replacement for the Affordable Connectivity Program. These programs empower everyone in this country with the tools and connectivity required to access jobs, health care, education, and essential government services.

Federal AI Governance that Protects the Rights, Safety, and Opportunities of Hispanic Communities and All Americans

AI systems are already making consequential decisions impacting Latino communities. Our communities need AI guardrails that protect civil rights, secure data privacy, and ensure systems are transparent, accountable, and independently audited. The unregulated development and widespread deployment of artificial intelligence have left communities vulnerable to the impacts of algorithmic discrimination, privacy violations, and serious safety concerns.

- *For instance, The ICE and Border Patrol operations that swept through Minnesota in early 2026 exposed the human cost of deploying AI systems without accountability or civil rights guardrails. The ACLU filed suit documenting ICE and CBP's pattern of suspicionless stops, warrantless arrests, and racial profiling of Minnesotans using facial recognition technology. Central to these abuses was Mobile Fortify, a facial recognition app with documented higher error rates for Black and Brown people that ICE treated as a "definitive" determination of immigration status — with agents ignoring contrary evidence including birth certificates — and which was deployed without required privacy reviews, leading to wrongful detentions of U.S. citizens and lawful residents. ICE also deployed AI-enabled social media monitoring and location-tracking systems capable of mapping the movements and associations of large groups without a warrant.*
- Hispanic Federation calls on Congress to enact comprehensive federal AI governance legislation that mandates evaluations for accuracy and disparate impact for AI tools used in federal enforcement and benefits decisions – including implicit biases, privacy protections that limit procurement and deployment of personal data, and ensures affected communities have meaningful recourse when algorithmic systems cause harm.

AI Literacy and Workforce Development

As AI reshapes industries and the skills employers demand, Latino workers risk being left behind without targeted investments in the education and training programs that build digital fluency and career readiness.

- *A full 92 percent of U.S. jobs require digital skills. Meanwhile, Latino workers represent a growing portion of Minnesota's labor force, but have an intolerable digital skills gap compared to their neighbors. Not only that, but these workers are also vulnerable to AI-driven displacement, requiring immediate federal investment to ensure all Minnesotans can benefit from the digital economy.*
- **Hispanic Federation urges Congress to invest in AI literacy and workforce development programs that equip Hispanic communities and all Americans with the capacity to fully engage in a rapidly changing digital economy, including education and workforce funding for traditional and nontraditional students, as well as workers in at-risk industries, partnerships with Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and initiatives that expand Latino representation beyond end users into the AI field itself.**

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Since 2020, HF has trained 417 Minnesota residents in digital workforce skills, helping 126 secure employment. In 2025 alone, HF served 128 individuals and connected 28 with jobs — and has connected Minnesota CBOs with the state's broadband office to strengthen community-level digital equity efforts.

NON-PROFIT PROTECTIONS

Nonprofit community-based organizations play essential roles in the communities they serve, filling vital service niches in their local areas by addressing gaps in services from governmental and for-profit providers. Over the past few years, the nonprofit sector has contributed approximately \$2 trillion to the GDP, providing essential services to address gaps in each of the areas discussed above.

- *For instance, the Federation's network of COVID-19 grantees, which had an estimated combined reach of more than 10 million people annually, was able to deliver emergency services, including food and housing assistance and health care, to some of the most overlooked and vulnerable communities during times of crisis, including individuals without health insurance, undocumented and mixed-status families, children and youth, pregnant women, domestic violence survivors, farmworkers, day laborers, and seniors.*
- *Likewise, Hispanic Federation's Lucha Contra El Hambre hunger relief effort focused on boosting food support to families throughout New York, Florida, and Illinois. Since its inception in 2011, the program has provided more than 1,250,000 fresh, healthy and culturally-responsive meals to Latinos in New York alone through our network of 71 non-profit member organizations across the city. In Puerto Rico, HF piloted a new preparedness program in 20 municipalities to stock 23 community kitchens with a three-day emergency supply of nonperishable food. These community-managed kitchens that provide hot meals after disasters committed to store the food through the end of hurricane season, only to be used in case of emergency.*
- **Hispanic Federation implores Congress and executive officials alike to protect and support vital community-driven, nonprofit funding and 501c3 status.**

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: In just 2025, Hispanic Federation provided training to more than 1,200 nonprofit leaders across 40 different capacity building workshops. At the same time, we provided community-based organizations across the country with more than \$25 million in aid, distributed to more than 400 different organizations. In Minnesota alone, Hispanic Federation has provided more than \$250,000 in funding across multiple organizations, supporting the essential work that community-based organizations do on the ground every day.



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