

Immigration Principles

July 2022

The following six principles delineate the Latino Policy Forum's immigration posture and its **Theory of Change-- that all individuals living in the U.S, regardless of their country of origin, are recognized as valuable and contributing members of society and have equal access to equity and prosperity.** To materialize this goal, the Forum will use these principles to inherently guide the immigration advocacy work the Latino Policy Forum leads and supports.

These principles are designed to be a policy-oriented framework that reflect the humane and sensible approach that should be developed both administratively and legislatively, one that we believe will confront and challenge anti-immigrant sentiment, make our communities safer, our economy stronger, and uphold our humanitarian values.

The Forum and its allies will use these principles as a guided litmus test when analyzing and advocating for policy changes at the local and state-level. While the Forum's main focus is to advocate for proactive immigration policies at the state and local level, these principles will also be used when reviewing and analyzing federal legislation and policy actions. As such, the Forum supports and advocates for:

- 1).** Policies and laws that adhere to human rights protections, defend the equality, dignity and basic liberties of all immigrants and support family stability and reunification.
- 2).** Policies and laws that provide a swift, fair and humane path to the regularization of immigration status for the 11 million undocumented individuals in the United States.
- 3).** Policies and laws that create systems and programs to support immigrants as they transition to a new life in the United States.
- 4).** Policies and laws that recognize due process for migrants and decriminalize the immigration system. This includes repealing laws that impose harsh criminal penalties for migration-related offenses, ending unjust deportations and detentions, and ceasing all enforcement policies rooted in discrimination.
- 5).** Policies and laws that manage safely and humanely the flow of migrant workers and prevent their exploitation. This includes providing temporary work visas, with the opportunity to adjust to permanent work visas, particularly for agricultural and non-agricultural manual labor in accordance with the labor needs of the U.S economy.
- 6).** Policies that not only uphold and adhere to the asylum and refugee laws that reflect the United States commitment to protect individuals fleeing persecution, but that are also inclusive of those seeking refuge due to other factors of forced migration. This includes policies and laws that take a root-cause approach to migration and eliminate unfair physical and legal obstacles for asylum-seekers and other vulnerable individuals.