



LA CULTURA CURA

DEAR LCF COMMUNITY:

Growing up in Washington Heights, I was surrounded by brilliant, creative, hard-working people. Yet like many of the youth in my neighborhood, people set the bar for my future shockingly low. For a young Dominican woman, the statistics said to me: either become a young mother or settle for a job that would barely pay the bills.

Everything shifted for me when a math teacher saw my potential and demanded that I start to expect more for myself. With her guidance and the unconditional support of my parents, I earned admission to an Ivy League school, even though just two years before I had no idea what an Ivy league education meant.

At the end of the day, what Mrs. McKinsey did for me was simply open a window to all the possibilities the world had in store. It was up to me to pursue them. But without her and my family, I'm not sure I would have had the imagination or the fortitude to set the bar higher. She and my parents created a culture of hope, a culture of expectations and a culture of possibility that transformed my life forever.

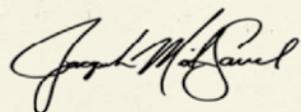
At the heart of Latino Community Foundation's ten-year Children and Youth Initiative was a commitment to creating a culture of hope and expectations for all of California's youth. We know that when young people are rooted in their history and culture, and exposed to a wide range of possibilities for their future, they are healthier, more active in their communities, and more likely to succeed in school. That sense of hope, confidence, and connection is the best antidote to unwanted teen pregnancies. I don't think it is any coincidence that the huge decrease in teen pregnancy in California over the last decade is matched by the doubling in rates of high school graduation and college enrollment rates during the same time period.

Our Children and Youth Initiative was Latino Community Foundation's very first grantmaking venture. Over ten years, we learned key lessons that shaped the values and the mission of this Foundation. In our Impact Report, we share highlights from the Children and Youth Initiative, profiles of the incredible community organizations, and strategies that were fundamental to our success.

The critical lessons we gained about relationship building, flexibility, investing in community and capacity, and the fundamental importance of culture and family continue to inform and catalyze our grantmaking today. For example, our groundbreaking Latino NonProfit Accelerator piloted in 2017 built on the key learnings and elements from this work and is guided by the grassroots leaders we met during the early years of the Initiative.

We look forward to building on this work to accomplish our mission of unleashing the civic and economic power of Latinos in California. Thank you to the hundreds of leaders to whom we owe the strength and success of the Children and Youth Initiative. We hope that these lessons will help funders and our community partners to accelerate change. Thank you for standing with our community and for leading from a place of love, trust, and power.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Martinez Garcel, Latino Community Foundation CEO

CONTEXT

CHILDREN AND YOUTH INITIATIVE

The Children and Youth Initiative (CYI) placed young children, adolescents, and their families at the center of community change. For ten years, Latino Community Foundation (LCF) and our partners invested in Latino-led organizations across the Bay Area and Central Valley to build their effectiveness, resilience, and impact. The goal of the Initiative was to increase the number of Latino children that are healthy and prepared for school in order to increase their future educational and economic success. The CYI goals expanded to include reducing the teenage pregnancy rates through educational and leadership development programs that lead to higher graduation and a college going culture in the Latino community.

The program was grounded in the fact that California had begun to experience a substantial increase of Latino children. In fact, 50% of all babies born in California are Latino and now more than 54% of all school children are also Latino. This data compelled us to focus on young children, teens, and their parents at the start of the project.

Through careful assessment, LCF identified three key issues that drive the current economic, educational, and health disparities between Latino and non-Latino families. First, Latinas continue to significantly delay early prenatal care until after the first trimester, which is important in ensuring children are healthy and ready to learn. Second, teen birth rates among Latinas are far greater than any other group often exposing both mother and child to higher rates of poverty. Third, Latino children disproportionately experience low levels of school readiness, preschool participation, and as result low literacy rates.

At the root of all of these statistics is the basic fact that in far too many communities, Latino youth face an uncertain and unpromising future. One Central Valley youth reflected that because her community was so depressing, having a child was the only thing to look forward to. We don't want that to be the reality for any young person in our state.

For a decade, LCF has invested in the success of grassroots nonprofits to help reduce unplanned teenage pregnancies in rural and urban Latino communities throughout the Central Valley, Central Coast, and the Bay Area. We are proud that our investments in culturally rooted rites of passage and leadership development programs for teens and parent Promotores continues to create lasting impact. These strategic investments have not only helped reduce unplanned pregnancies, they have given young people a sense of hope about their future—inspiring them to pursue a higher education and become civically engaged.

Between 2007 and 2016 (the last year with confirmed data from the California Department of Public Health, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division), the teen birth rate steadily declined by 59% in California—a tremendous victory for young people, nonprofit leaders, funders, and our state. Even more importantly, our efforts have begun to shift the reality of what young people believe and know is possible—for themselves, their families, and their communities growing a culture of expectations and success that will continue to uplift and inspire Latinos across California.

SOMOS MAYFAIR





OUR APPROACH

Starting in 2008, the Latino Community Foundation launched the Children and Youth Initiative with a one million dollar commitment to invest in Latino children, youth, and families over four years. This was ambitious for LCF, given that we had to raise all the necessary funding to realize our vision. We made a commitment to our community and hit the ground running. LCF Board and staff met with dozens of leaders in the philanthropic and social sector to help shape the Initiative. These conversations and recommendations led to the adoption of a cohort model, with additional investments to build organizational strength and collaborative evaluation expertise within the Latino nonprofit community. LCF chose to go beyond traditional grantmaking to include a high-touch, adaptive, and asset-based model for long-term partnership.

LCF developed a Theory of Change for the Initiative and a set of values that guided our work and grantmaking. LCF put Latino-led and Latino-based nonprofits at the center of this model. These trusted nonprofits had staff with lived experience and a wealth of knowledge that enabled them to provide effective programming and led transformational change. What they needed was philanthropic investment, a platform to share their success, and a network of peers to learn, reflect, and build power with.

The Latino Community Foundation delivered on its promise to the community by investing in 18 nonprofits. We went far beyond the grants to also coordinate a series of capacity-building trainings to strengthen infrastructure and maximize nonprofit impact. These retreats, trainings, and one-on-one meetings helped LCF to build authentic relationships and to deeply understand the needs and aspirations of the Latino nonprofit community. In response to our grantees' desire to build power and address systemic issues, LCF also launched a statewide advocacy campaign—The California Latino Agenda in 2012. The first LCF Latino Policy Summit was held in Sacramento and CYI grantees were a big part of the planning process and its success.

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



The LCF Children and Youth Initiative has funded 28 Community Partners over the ten-year program. LCF's Community Partners were diverse in size and focus, but they had many things in common. They were trusted community institutions that provided critical services, promoted healing, nurtured leadership, and connected families to local resources and opportunities.

LCF chose organizations with the cultural competency to create and implement solutions from a strength-based approach who were deeply rooted in their communities. The program offerings varied though shared some commonalities:

THE PHILOSOPHY OF LA CULTURA CURA (“CULTURE CURES”).

DEVELOPED BY JERRY TELLO AND THE NATIONAL COMPADRES NETWORK, A HEALTH AND HEALING PHILOSOPHY THAT RECOGNIZES THAT CHANNELING AUTHENTIC CULTURAL VALUES, TRADITIONS, AND INDIGENOUS PRACTICES LEADS TO HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT, RENEWAL, AND WELLBEING.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TO CREATE A CULTURE OF EXPECTATIONS.

MANY OF THE YOUTH SERVED BY OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS GROW UP BELIEVING THEIR VOICE DOES NOT MATTER AND THAT OPPORTUNITY IS OUT OF THEIR REACH. Often young parents say the reason they wanted to have a baby was simply to feel like they had a purpose. Our partners' approaches helped youth dream bigger for themselves, not only shifting the reality of teen pregnancy, but also succeeded on many levels from improved educational outcomes to increased civic engagement.



THE ADELANTE LATINA PROGRAM HAS REALLY TAUGHT ME A LOT ABOUT BEING A PROUD LATINA.

I learned not to degrade myself, not let no one ever put me down, not let no man degrade me and make me feel like I don't meet his standards because I'm perfect the way I am."

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
IN OSARI, CA

I MYSELF BECAME A TEEN MOM AT 17, AND A COUPLE OF YEARS AFTERWARDS BEGAN PARTICIPATING IN TRAINING TO BECOME A PROMOTORA.

Through the years, I have learned from many inspirational women who started out like I did and have gone on to make something of themselves. Now I am proud to say that I am a Promotora, a City College student, a mom of two great kids, and an inspiration for other future parent leaders.”

MISSION GRADUATES PARENT LEADER

A FOCUS ON PEER LEARNING MODELS.

WHEN TEENS ORGANIZED OTHER TEENS AND WHEN PARENTS LED WORKSHOPS FOR OTHER PARENTS, IT WORKED. Organizations worked with a core group of youth to build their knowledge and leadership, so they could, in turn, educate and engage their peers. Parent Promotores (community health workers) were trained to speak to other parents about the importance of cultural sexual education and wellness. This approach is effective because it strengthens community trust and leverages the power of peers to impact change.

INTEGRATION OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND POLICY ADVOCACY WORK.

THESE PROGRAMS GO ABOVE AND BEYOND THE EDUCATION AND DIRECT SERVICE OFFERINGS RELATED TO YOUTH AND YOUNG PARENTS. Collectively, grantees engaged in a variety of advocacy activities at local, county and state levels to ensure the passage and implementation of policies that can promote youth, family and community resilience.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.

PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS, AND A STRATEGY TO ENGAGE THEM, ARE A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN THE CONVERSATION ABOUT AND TRANSFORMATION OF TEEN PREGNANCY. In the Latino community, parents must be engaged and supported to talk to their children about family planning. In addition, young mothers and young fathers are themselves strong peer advocates and educators about the importance of sexual health.

DADS JUST WANT TO BE GOOD FATHERS AND PROVIDERS.

It doesn't matter if they've struggled with gangs or substances. When they get targeted support and people teach them how to be a parent, it makes all the difference. It's a beautiful thing to see.”

YOUTH ALLIANCE

THROUGH THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH INITIATIVE, LCF WAS PROUD TO INVEST IN THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY PARTNERS LEADING THIS TRANSFORMATION WORK OF INSPIRING YOUNG LATINOS TO STEP INTO THEIR LEADERSHIP AND REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL:

 <p>ACT for Women and Girls CENTRAL VALLEY</p>	 <p>Bay Area Hispano Institute for Advancement, Inc.</p>	 <p>Bay Area Parent Leadership Action Network BAY AREA</p>	 <p>California Latinas for Reproductive Justice STATEWIDE</p>	 <p>Canal Alliance MARIN COUNTY</p>	 <p>Familias Unidas BAY AREA</p>
 <p>Fathers & Families of San Joaquin CENTRAL VALLEY</p>	 <p>Fresno Barrios Unidos CENTRAL VALLEY</p>	 <p>Good Samaritan Family Resource Center BAY AREA</p>	 <p>Health Connected BAY AREA</p>	 <p>La Clínica a california health center La Clínica de La Raza</p>	 <p>Learning and Loving Center SANTA CLARA</p>
 <p>Mexican American Community Services SAN JOSE</p>	 <p>Mission Graduates BAY AREA</p>	 <p>Mission Neighborhood Health Center</p>	 <p>Mujeres Unidas y Activas BAY AREA</p>	 <p>National Compadres Network NATIONWIDE</p>	 <p>Novato School Readiness Program</p>
 <p>Ravenswood Family Health Center</p>	 <p>Salud Para la Gente CENTRAL COAST</p>	 <p>Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos CENTRAL COAST</p>	 <p>Somos Mayfair SAN JOSE</p>	 <p>The Latina Center BAY AREA</p>	 <p>The Latino Commission STATEWIDE</p>
 <p>The Unity Council BAY AREA</p>	 <p>Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center BAY AREA</p>	 <p>Visión y Compromiso STATEWIDE</p>	 <p>Youth Alliance CENTRAL COAST</p>		

DREAM

• High Content
• Low Cost
• High Quality
• High Speed
• High Accuracy
• High Reliability
• High Efficiency
• High Performance
• High Capacity
• High Flexibility
• High Scalability
• High Security
• High Availability
• High Maintainability
• High Supportability
• High Customizability
• High Interoperability
• High Compatibility
• High Portability
• High Reusability
• High Extensibility
• High Adaptability
• High Resilience
• High Robustness
• High Durability
• High Reliability
• High Availability
• High Maintainability
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• High Robustness
• High Durability

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• Low Cost
• High Quality
• High Speed
• High Accuracy
• High Reliability
• High Efficiency
• High Performance
• High Capacity
• High Flexibility
• High Scalability
• High Security
• High Availability
• High Maintainability
• High Supportability
• High Customizability
• High Interoperability
• High Compatibility
• High Portability
• High Reusability
• High Extensibility
• High Adaptability
• High Resilience
• High Robustness
• High Durability



PARTNER PROFILES

FRESNO BARRIOS UNIDOS

For more than two decades, Fresno Barrios Unidos (FBU) has provided young people in Fresno with the skills and opportunities they need to thrive in their communities and give back using a holistic, culturally rooted, inclusive approach. At the core of all their programs is reproductive health which they have found is an accessible, effective entry point to engage young people. Many youth come to FBU at first for condoms or because they think they may be pregnant, but end up staying because of the love, support, and empowerment they receive. In turn, they become community activists organizing on the issues that impact their lives.

For example, after building the skills of their teen parents to do outreach and education, FBU began to invest in their advocacy skills. Youth led a campaign to force Fresno Unified School District to adopt comprehensive sex education for all middle and high school students. Over the course of this three-year effort, young people conducted research to inform policymakers on the issue, spoke at the School Board and other community forums to advocate and call out the District's lack of comprehensive sex education, and met with District officials to review the curriculum. Their advocacy led to a historic win with the District agreeing in 2015 to reinstate comprehensive sex education. Now, FBU is the provider of comprehensive sex education for high school students across the District.

"I attended LCF's Sacramento Latino Policy Summit, and was amazed with the group of individuals LCF had in one room. So many brilliant and powerful Latinos doing great work in our communities. This was huge and very inspiring to me. I was at Aha's speaker after speaker. I was inspired to go back into my community and be brave for those we serve. As a result in collaboration with some of my community partners we were able to save the last health safety net for undocumented people in Fresno. Our group visited board of supervisors, Assembly Member Perea, public health administrators, conducted canvassing, community forum, rallies, and press conferences. Through our advocacy efforts Fresno was forgiven 5.5 million owed to the state. Fresno was then able to use this money to continue providing Medically Indigent Services Program (MISP).

"LCF staff is concerned and interested in what we do as an organization, not just the programs they fund. This is important, because they are able to understand why we provide the program we do and how. Having a funder who understands the culture of the people we are serving is major. I don't feel there is any judgement about the way we provide services to our community. As an organization we don't feel like we have to be apologetic about how we work. The relationship built is one that is inclusive of mutual respect and appreciation. I feel very comfortable approaching LCF staff with success as well as challenges. This type of relationship isn't always possible with some funders."

—Socorro Santillan, Former ED, Fresno Barrios Unidos



Fresno Barrios Unidos transforms communities by empowering youth and families through education, wellness and advocacy. We are inclusive, respectful, and appreciative of the youth and families we serve.



I GREW TO LOVE OUR MISSION FOR JUSTICE FROM THE MOMENT THE [WOODLAKE] SCHOOL BOARD APPROVED THE SEX EDUCATION CURRICULUM.

It empowered me to create awareness in my community and advocate for change. Not only did it awaken the activist in me, it also empowered me. ACT allowed me to grow into a more confident individual and provided me with opportunities I would never have imagined. From registering voters in Woodlake, having the courage to speak to peers and teachers about the very unpopular topic of sex ed, and speaking to my legislators at the state capitol—ACT has allowed me to do all of this.

Everything I have done over close to three years of involvement with ACT made me stand out among the 43,997 student who applied to Stanford University. I am among the 4.7% of students who were accepted, and one of the few from the Central Valley. This fall I will attend Stanford University to major in psychology and political science.

My journey with ACT has been a ribbon of hope threaded through my high school career. For the first year and a half I was part of ACT, I had to lie to my mother about participating in the program because we were trained to be sexual health peer educators. But her attitude has shifted. I've brought home information about immigrant rights and health access barriers for low-income people that have peaked her interest. She even asks me to talk to my brothers about sex.

Being a part of ACT has contributed to my sense of ownership over my community and ignited my passion for social change.

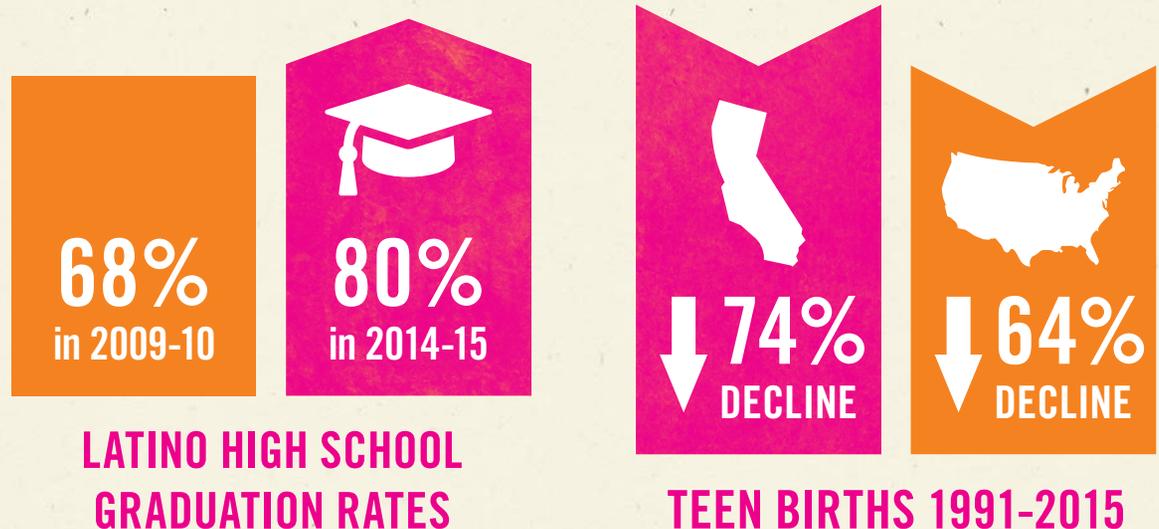
—18-Year-Old Program Participant with ACT for Women and Girls, Visalia, CA

OUR IMPACT

In partnership with these Latino-led nonprofits, LCF has made very important strides in achieving our goals of advancing academic success and reducing the incidence of unplanned pregnancies among Latino youth.

California continues to outpace the nation in decreasing rates of teen birth. From 1991 to 2015, California experienced a 74% decline while the nation overall had a 64% decrease, and from 2014 to 2015, a 10% decrease was witnessed in the state with only an 8% reduction for the entire country according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. California is also experiencing record graduation rates for Latino high school students—80% in 2014-15 compared to 68% in 2009-10 according to the California Department of Education.

We are especially proud of the impact of CYI in rural communities across the state. Target counties in the Central Valley began with rates of teen pregnancy significantly higher than state and national averages. Often these communities struggle to secure equal levels of investment as urban organizations, operate in communities where they face more resistance or even hostility to reproductive health education, and face additional structural barriers such as transportation to engaging the community. With our investment and guidance, dynamic organizations working in the trenches of rural California made a deep impact through CYI.





HOW TO BUILD ON OUR SUCCESS

We've identified a few best practices that can truly move the needle on teen pregnancy prevention and youth success.

LA CULTURA CURA WORKS. CULTURE CURES.

WHEN YOUTH TAP INTO THEIR CULTURAL ROOTS AND ASSETS TO HEAL FROM TRAUMA, BUILD THEIR CHARACTER, AND DEVELOP AS LEADERS, THEIR POTENTIAL BECOMES LIMITLESS.

Once youth see their connection to culture and their community, develop self-respect, and understand they have a sacred purpose in the world, they are less likely to become young parents and more likely to thrive in all aspects of life. And for young parents, a strong sense of culture sparks their sense of responsibility to family and to their community.

FATHERS MATTER.

MANY TRADITIONAL PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOCUS ON YOUNG WOMEN AND MOTHERS.

Yet, there is a wealth of data demonstrating that when a dad is not in a kid's life, that child's risk factors go off the charts. Several of our partners stress the importance of a strategy to engage young fathers and help them become the kind of parents they want to be. Comprehensive and continued outreach to young men and young fathers is key for transformation.





FAMILY IS EVERYTHING.

BEYOND THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUDING YOUNG MEN AND FATHERS IN EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE, IT IS CRITICAL TO LOOK AT THE WHOLE FAMILY. In Latino communities, family is sacred, and it is central to our work. For example, our partners knew that teaching young people about sex would only make so much of an impact without also giving their parents language to engage their kids around sexual issues. Any program that wants to engage and uplift Latino youth must also consider the entire family unit and integrate family engagement in their strategies.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IS AN EFFECTIVE ENTRY POINT.

SEVERAL PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS SHARE THAT PUTTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AT THE CORE OF THEIR PROGRAMS IS KEY TO THEIR SUCCESS. While these programs may ultimately be aiming to tackle key issues like poverty, pregnancy, violence and mental health, using sexual health as an entry point is more accessible to young people. This entry point becomes a pathway towards much larger impacts related to their leadership, education, civic engagement, and success.

MORE FOCUS IS NEEDED ON YOUNG PARENTS AS STUDENTS.

IN BOTH HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE, STUDENTS WHO ARE YOUNG PARENTS FACE CONSIDERABLE BARRIERS ABOVE AND BEYOND OTHER LATINO YOUTH. Childcare on college campuses is inadequate, particularly in community colleges where the majority of California's first-generation college students attend. Yet very few schools or initiatives look at student parents as a unique and important target population.

CHANGE TAKES TIME.

MANY OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS SHARED THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THEIR GRANTS ARE FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS DESPITE THIS WORK BEING ONGOING AND LONG TERM. There is a critical need for philanthropy to award more multi-year grants to changemakers if they are to move the needle for difficult challenges like unplanned teen pregnancy, multi-generation poverty, and healing. Long-term funding is especially critical in more rural and/or more conservative communities where building the relationships, partnerships, and credibility to overcome resistance or hostility takes longer.



BAY AREA HISPANO INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCEMENT - BAHIA, INC., BERKELEY, CA

A photograph of three young girls of Hispanic descent sitting together outdoors against a wooden fence. The girl on the left is wearing a green shirt and has her arm around the girl in the middle. The girl on the right is wearing a dark blue hoodie and has her arm around the girl in the middle. All three girls are smiling and looking towards the camera. The girl in the middle is wearing a pink and white striped shirt and has a joyful expression.

RELATIONSHIPS MATTER MOST.

LESSONS LEARNED

Over the course of the last decade, LCF has learned a great deal from our community partners and the families they serve. These grassroots leaders have shaped our vision and influenced our thinking about how to advance the change we wish to see in our community. Here are a few key lessons learned:

RELATIONSHIPS MATTER MOST.

GIVEN THAT CYI WAS OUR FIRST GRANTMAKING INITIATIVE, ONE OF OUR EARLIEST LESSONS WAS THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING TRUST AND CONNECTION WITH OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AS THE STARTING PLACE FOR SUCCESS. People are everything and how we relate and connect to each other is the most important and enduring measurement of our impact. We measured our effectiveness by the depth of relationships in our cohort and throughout our programs.

COMMUNITY IS CRITICAL.

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOUND PARTICIPATING IN A COHORT VERY POWERFUL. The Latino learning community that emerged from the Initiative created space for nonprofit leaders to see each other as relatives, rather than competitors in a scarce environment. Leaders grew in their confidence and ability to own their impact and communicate their own strategies for success. All of us emerged with more clarity, confidence, and connection to fuel our work. The power of coming together, in a space that is welcoming, respectful, and supportive is undeniable.

LISTEN, LEARN AND ADAPT.

OVER THE COURSE OF THE CYI, WE CONTINUALLY STAYED IN DIALOGUE WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS AND ENGAGED THEM IN PLANNING SO THAT WE COULD ADAPT TO BETTER MEET THEM WHERE THEY WERE AT AND RESPOND TO CHANGING AND EMERGING NEEDS. As our CYI cohort grew and become more diverse in size and geography, so did their priorities, interests, and capacities. It was critical for LCF to be accountable to their wisdom and feedback and stay flexible to make the necessary changes and adaptations along the way. As our community partners discovered what worked best, we adjusted our expectations and investments to align.

OUR COMMUNITY HAS TREMENDOUS VISION AND CAPACITY.

AFTER YEARS OF WORKING ALONGSIDE BRILLIANT LATINO LEADERS, LCF BELIEVES DEEPLY IN THE POWER AND ABILITY OF OUR COMMUNITY TO LEAD CHANGE. Our leaders have the grit, entrepreneurial vision, and the will to get the job done. What they need are partners and allies who are equally committed to this work, and who are willing to stand beside them and invest long term.

I HAVE DEEP RESPECT FOR THE LATINO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND THE WORK THEY DO.

They have been a vocal advocate for Latino-led organizations and those that are doing the work on the ground in a sensitive and strength-based way.

They have approached us as experts in the work that we do and provided us the resources to go out and make the impact we have had in the community.

It is a joy to be able to receive funding from an organization that you respect and that has the respect of many others across the state because of their priority and focus on lifting up Latino-based organizations that work to support Latino youth.”

YOUTH ALLIANCE



PARTNER PROFILES

MISSION GRADUATES

Through a wide range of afterschool, in-school, and community programs, Mission Graduates makes college the expectation, not the exception, for youth and families living in San Francisco's Mission neighborhood. At the beginning of the CYI, Mission Graduates used funding to train Spanish-speaking youth leaders to provide peer sex education in neighborhood high schools. As the Initiative evolved, the organization was able to launch a program focused on parent engagement and education. They built a curriculum for parents about how they could support their children's path to college and be more active in their children's schools.

Ten years later, Mission Graduates' parent program is going strong. When they began, they worked in 4 schools with about 200 parents. Now they support a team of 40 parent leaders who work across 11 schools with more than 1,000 families. They are proud of their work to promote a culture of college-going, a culture of lifelong learning, and a culture of connection for parents and kids of all ages.



YOUTH ALLIANCE

Youth Alliance provides loving support to youth in Hollister, Gilroy, and surrounding communities to transform their lives, promote healing and cultivate their life's purpose. Through CYI, Youth Alliance expanded their work in mostly rural areas and hired and trained young parents to be sexual health peer educators. This was not only a great leadership opportunity, but also a way they could earn desperately needed income in a community where all teens, especially teen parents, struggle to find work.

As Youth Alliance teaches young people about their culture and their history, it helps them build a sense of identity as well as pride and ownership of their community. That inner strength gives youth a sense of possibility and a vision for how they want to be as young parents. As one participant shared, "If it wasn't for this program, I wouldn't ever think of enrolling into college. Now I know my worth and my potential."



MIL GRACIAS

We are proud of the impacts of the Children and Youth Initiative community partners. Even more so, we are humbled by the feedback and appreciation we've received from our partners about the importance and significance of this ten-year investment. We are forever grateful to our earliest funding partners who believed in our vision. A very special thank you to the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation and The California Wellness Foundation for your investment in the Children and Youth Initiative.

Our success with CYI ripples beyond the specific goals and participants of the program. Through this work, we have learned what works in the Latino community. Peer education and cultural rites of passage programs like the “La Cultura Cura” (Culture Cures) developed by the National Compadres Network are now on the map. These Latino-led models have reduced unwanted teen pregnancies, but also promoted healing, educational success, and lifetime opportunity for young Latinos across the state. They set higher aspirations for our young people, and they delivered. Most of all, we built the power of Latino leaders and nonprofits across the state to lead with confidence and love. Together, we are a force to be reckoned with.

The interventions of our community partners are clearly working, yet the lack of future funding in this critical area could derail this tremendous progress across the state. Certainly, one of the most common refrains of feedback we heard from our partners was that changing trends in philanthropy and an end to many of the past funding streams targeting teen pregnancy remain a concern. Many funders wanted funded organizations to be “teen pregnancy” prevention nonprofits with a clear focus on reproductive justice. When they switched priorities, the nonprofits were left in a difficult position.

That's why Latino Community Foundation is doubling down on our capacity-building work focused on fundraising and branding for long-term success. We have learned that our nonprofits need access to world-class mentors and funders who can support their long-term sustainability goals. Through our Latino NonProfit Accelerator, we offer just that, an opportunity for Latino nonprofits to secure a brighter, more sustainable future. Together, we will build stronger, bolder Latino-led nonprofits who will continue to unleash the power, talent and leadership of Latinos across California.

As our first grantmaking program, the Children and Youth Initiative will continue to hold a very special place in our hearts. Everything we have learned together through this Initiative has created the strong foundation on which Latino Community Foundation stands today. Thank you. Thank you to everyone who made this work possible. A very special thank you to our committed funding partners, incredible community leaders and visionary staff. Mil Gracias to Meredith Fenton and Design Action Collective for making this report possible. Lastly, thank you to Jerry Tello and Hector Sanchez-Flores for the most valuable lesson of all - that our culture cures.