

A stylized graphic of the Ohio state flag, featuring a central red circle with a white border, surrounded by white stars on a blue background, all set within a white outline of the state of Ohio. The graphic is set against a dark blue background.

2016 Annual Report

A white outline of the state of Ohio, positioned on the right side of the cover. It contains the Ohio logo and the text for the Latino Affairs Commission.

Ohio

Latino Affairs
Commission

John Kasich, Governor
Lilleana Cavanaugh, MBA, CPM, Executive Director

January 1, 2017

Fellow Ohioans,

This year's annual report highlights the notable achievements accomplished by your Ohio Latino Affairs Commission. We are pleased to document another impressive return on taxpayer investment with respect to the funds recommended by Governor Kasich and appropriated by the Ohio legislature for our agency. Our commission is an indispensable link between government and our growing community, and we are committed to helping develop and implement policies that address the needs of Hispanic Ohioans.

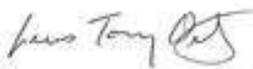
Our small staff works tirelessly to implement our Governor's program priorities and to fulfill our legislative mandates. Likewise, we are grateful to our interns and volunteers who helped us accomplish our strategic mission. Our volunteers provided over 2,000 hours of service to our agency this year, a value of more than \$50,000.

We continue to foster strong partnerships with federal, state, and local government agencies, non-profit organizations, and Latino community leaders. We organized several successful conferences and summits on issues ranging from education and civic engagement, to health and economic development.

Over 1,500 individuals attended our events this year, and we expect this number to continue growing in subsequent years. Our more than 40 public and private partnerships allowed us to bring forth programs, trainings and pertinent information to Hispanic Ohioans.

On behalf of all our commissioners and dedicated staff, thank you for your support of our service to the people of Ohio.

Respectfully,

L. Tony Ortiz
Chairman**Luis "Tony" Ortiz,**
Chair
Dayton**Elizabeth Guzman-Bowman,**
Vice Chair
Columbus**Jose Feliciano Jr.,**
Secretary
Aurora**Michael Florez**
Cincinnati**Gregory Guzmán, Ph.D.**
Maumee**Dan Molina**
Loveland**Rev. Juan Rivera**
Campbell**Mary Santiago**
Lorain**V. Anthony Simms-Howell**
Cincinnati**Emanuel Torres**
Columbus**Rick Perales**
State Representative
District 73 ~ Greene County**Dan Ramos**
State Representative
District 56 ~ Lorain County**Gayle Manning**
Senator
District 13 ~ Huron & Lorain
Counties**Charleta Tavares**
Senator
District 15 ~ Franklin County

Our Mission

The purpose of the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission is to **ADVISE** state government on issues affecting Hispanic Ohioans, to **CONNECT** the diverse Latino communities across the state, and to **BUILD** the capacity of community organizations so they may better serve the fast growing population of Ohio.



Board of Commissioners

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Jose C. Feliciano Jr.
Secretary
(Aurora)

Emanuel Torres
(Blacklick)

Anthony Simms-Howell
(Cincinnati)

Rev. Juan Rivera
(Campbell)

Elizabeth Guzman-Bowman
Vice Chairwoman
(Columbus)

Mary Santiago
(Lorain)

Gregory Guzmán
(Maumee)

Michael Florez
(Cincinnati)

Dan Molina
(Loveland)

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS

Rep. Rick Perales
(R-Beavercreek)

Rep. Dan Ramos
(D-Lorain)

Sen. Charleta Tavares
(D-Columbus)

Sen. Gayle Manning
(R-North Ridgeville)

OCHLA Staff

Lilleana Cavanaugh, MBA, CPM
Executive Director

Andrea Magaña Lewis
Public Policy Officer

Lair Marin-Marcum
Community Liaison

Georgina Alvarez
Organization Development Officer

Briana Black
Administrative Clerk

Latisha Jeffrey
AmeriCorps Vista
Capacity Building

Jesse Dotson
AmeriCorps Vista
Outreach & Social Media

Annual Events

Ohio Latino Education Summit



Our annual Latino Education Summit is an event that brings together educators, administrators, non-profit leaders, parents, students and policymakers to discuss prevailing issues regarding the education of Ohio's Hispanic students. The conference features workshops where selected participants share "best practices" with each other and with attendees, as well as additional programming focused on educational issues for Ohio Latinos. This year the summit was hosted by the University of Toledo, and sixteen best practices were shared outlining innovative ideas to improve the overall educational attainment of Hispanic students.



We were proud to partner with the Ohio Department of Education and the University of Toledo for the event, which convened over 200 individuals from across the state.

Medical Interpreting Conference

The first-ever Ohio Medical Interpreting Conference took place this year with an aim to improve language access and cultural competence in the healthcare field. The event provided a unique opportunity for interpreters, health providers and stakeholders to build synergy for better health outcomes through workshops and networking opportunities. Over 200 interpreters and healthcare advocates from more than five states attended the day-long conference.

We were proud to partner with The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, South Eastern Medical Interpreters Association, and Community and Court Interpreters of Ohio for this inaugural event.



Agenda Latina 2016

The Agenda Latina is an event specifically designed to help build the capacity of Latino organizations in Ohio. Each year the commission procures experts in non-profit instruction to provide Latino community organizations with the tools and resources to become more sustainable and effective within their communities. Topics of discussion aim to improve communication within the organizations, foster collaboration between entities, examine and emulate best practices and develop a statewide community agenda on specific subject matters. The National Council of La Raza partnered with OCHLA for this year's event, which convened the executive directors of 17 Latino grassroots organizations in Ohio.

Annual Events

Ohio Latino Health Summit



We are proud to support initiatives that improve health and promote a healthy lifestyle for Hispanic Ohioans. The Latino Health Summit is an event that convenes health experts, service providers and community members to share best practices as it pertains to health and well-being in the Latino community.

Dr. Robert Needlman, co-author of the iconic parenting book Dr. Spock's Baby and Child Care, provided an insightful keynote speech this year titled "Nurturing Bilingual Literacy in Latino Children". Dr. Needlman is the co-founder of "Reach Out and Read", an award-winning national early literacy program. He currently teaches Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics and MetroHealth Medical Center and is Professor of Pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University.

We were honored to partner with MetroHealth and LULAC Ohio for the annual event, which convened over 175 people and featured 10 presentations.

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards Gala

OCHLA was proud to partner with The Ohio State University Office of Diversity and Inclusion to present this year's 36th annual Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan (DHO) Awards Gala. The event recognizes and honors individuals and organizations who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in their professional or community service endeavors, and who serve as role models for the growing Hispanic community in Ohio. We were proud to honor 18 award recipients this year, including two Latino Military Service of Distinction awardees.

"On this amazing day, I would like to say thank you first to Tony, who believes in all the things I do in the community enough to nominate me for this incredible honor. Thanks to my family, who are always on board with whatever I get involved in. They support my passions without question, and allow me the time necessary to do whatever is necessary to accomplish my goals. I love what I do in the community, and even when I feel like I am making but a small difference, it fills me with propose and happiness. Being humbled by this recognition, I accept this award on behalf of all Ohio Hispanics/Latinos who are unselfishly giving back to their communities."

- 2016 DHO Awardee Yvonne Bravo Wathen



Annual Events

Ohio Latino Student Summit



The first-ever Ohio Latino Student Summit took place this year in an effort to connect, empower, and build community while enhancing the Latino student leadership experience in Ohio. Nearly 200 high school and college students attended the summit, which featured workshops, networking opportunities and a nationally renowned motivational speaker. OCHLA was proud to partner with the University of Cincinnati and the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute for this inaugural event.

2016 Minority Health Initiatives

During 2016, OCHLA received two grants from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health in the amount of \$11,000 to address health disparities affecting the Latino community, and to promote healthy lifestyle habits. The Local Conversations II grant was completed this year and is a follow-up project to the July 2011 report Local Conversations, which collected data on the state of Latino health in Ohio. Phase II has allowed OCHLA to update its health data and work with Latino organizations to devise healthcare priorities around the state to promote a healthy lifestyle. The Minority Health Month Grant allowed OCHLA to host two workshops that educated people on best practices as it relates to health problems that disproportionately affect the Latino community.

New American Forum



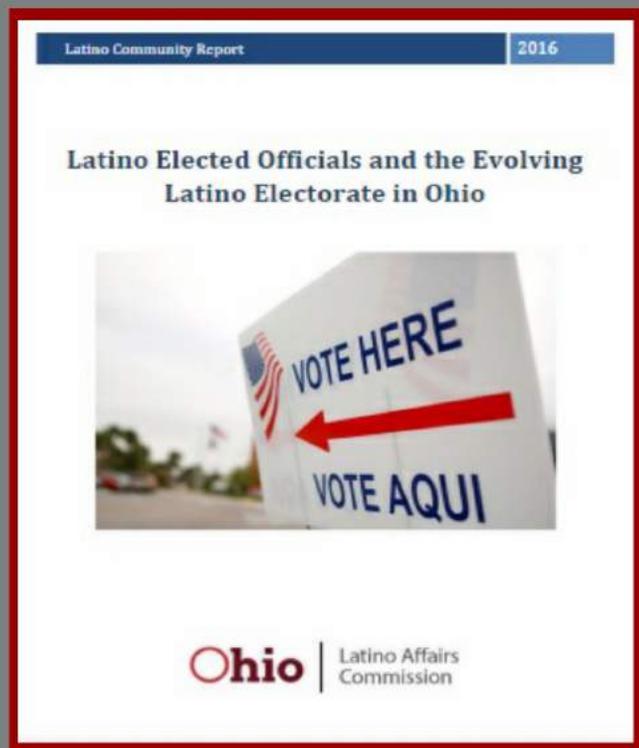
OCHLA was pleased to collaborate with Representative Kevin Boyce and several immigrant-serving organizations in Columbus to host the first-ever New American Forum. The event was born from the desire to discuss strategies for inclusion, integration and empowerment of the fastest growing demographic sector in Franklin County. The event convened over 200 participants, and featured roundtable discussions on the topics of Civil Rights and Housing, Human Trafficking, Language Access and Healthcare. The city's Chief Diversity Officer, as well as seven state and city elected officials took an active role in the program, and spent time listening to attendees on the challenges and opportunities facing New Americans in Columbus.

Latino Community Reports

Our commission is committed to equipping state leaders with key information on Ohio's Hispanic community. Latino Community Reports are part of the Commission's work to fulfill its statutory mandate to advise Ohio's government on issues affecting their Hispanic constituents. Our reports are designed to educate and facilitate discussion on particular challenges and opportunities facing Hispanic Ohioans.

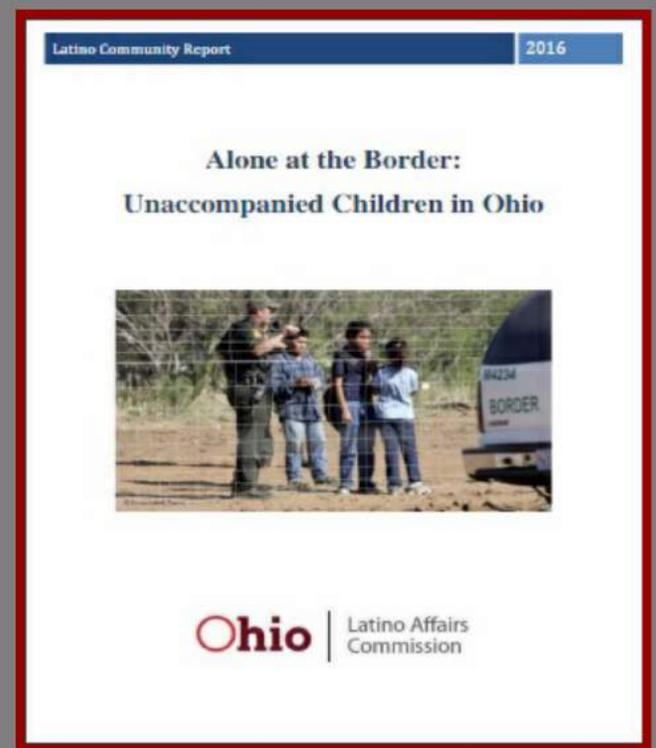
"Latino Elected Officials and the Evolving Latino Electorate in Ohio"

This report explores the different factors and challenges affecting the Latino electorate, and its representation at every level of government.



"Alone at the Border: Unaccompanied Children in Ohio"

This report explores the factual background of unaccompanied children arriving from Central American countries who are placed within the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement.



Key Findings

- Ohio ranks 19th across the nation in its Latino eligible voter population.
- Of the 199,000 eligible Latino voters in Ohio, over 40% classify as Millennials (individuals between the ages of 18 and 33).
- As of June 2015, according to data extracted by the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, there are 15 Latino elected officials in Ohio serving in local government roles and on public school boards.

- The predominant profile of an unaccompanied child in the U.S. is a young adolescent boy from Guatemala between 15 and 16 years of age.
- Many unaccompanied children are from indigenous Maya communities, where the predominant language is one of 20 Mayan dialects.
- There are nearly 1,700 unaccompanied children living with sponsors in Ohio. Hamilton, Franklin, Tuscarawas and Butler counties house the most unaccompanied children.

2016 Ohio Latino

In May, OCHLA launched the 2016 Ohio Latino Vote Campaign with a goal to increase Latino voter participation in the November election. Latino leaders and organizations from across the state were invited to participate in the campaign by hosting voter registration drives and training. Nearly 20 organizations pledged their support to the campaign, and 14 voter registration events were hosted throughout the state between May and October. Below are some of our "Get Out the Vote" initiatives.

Festival Latino Voter Registration Drive

In partnership with several community organizations, including the Secretary of State's office and the Franklin County Board of Elections, OCHLA hosted a 2-day voter registration drive at the annual Festival Latino in Columbus, Ohio.



Voter Registration Volunteer Training



In partnership with the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI), Ohio Hispanic Coalition and Su Casa Cincinnati, OCHLA hosted voter registration volunteer trainings in Columbus and Cincinnati. Participants learned the basic rules of registering voters, eligibility requirements and voter engagement techniques.



Vote Campaign

Ohio Young Latino Voters Coalition (OYLVC)

The OYLVC is a digital platform that was created to mobilize Latino Millennials, which comprise 40% of eligible Latino voters in Ohio. The Coalition is comprised of over 20 members from across the state, who were provided tools and resources to increase voter turnout on college campuses.

The Ohio Latino Affairs Commission Presents
OHIO YOUNG LATINO VOTERS COALITION



Voter Turnout Roundtables and Strategy Sessions
Get Resources for Organizing Your Community
Connect with Other Collegiate Latinos
Campus Voter Registration Drives
Have a Voice in This Election.

Sign up Your Student Organization TODAY!

 @OCHLA_OH

 Ohio Latino Affairs Commission

Election Day Hotline

The Ohio Latino Vote Campaign ended this year with a final emphasis on assisting Spanish-speaking voters on Election Day. OCHLA, in partnership with the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO), was proud to host a national voter hotline out of its office. With the help of a few committed volunteers, our staff members fielded hundreds of calls from voters across the nation on the Monday and Tuesday of Election week. While most calls featured voters inquiring about their polling locations and registration status, there were a number of individuals who called to report issues they were experiencing at the polls.



New Projects of 2016

Professional Development Workshop For Teachers

OCHLA, in collaboration with the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, coordinated a professional development workshop for educators on the educational considerations for students without legal immigrant status. Presenters Dana Weber (Stark County Educational Service Center), Brenda Custodio (The Ohio State University) and Luis Macías (The Ohio State University) spoke on educational rights, barriers to educational success, and resources available for teachers working with the population. Over 60 educators from a large portion of Central Ohio's school districts attended the workshop.



Ohio Fairness & Sensitivity Data Review Committee

OCHLA played an active role in the 2016 Fairness and Sensitivity Data Review committee within the Ohio Department of Education. The purpose of the committee is to review newly developed test items for Ohio's State Tests to ensure they are fair, culturally sensitive and unbiased.

Cesar Chavez Day initiative

Senator Charleta Tavares worked closely with OCHLA this year to introduce S.B. 280, which would designate March 31st as "Cesar E. Chavez Day" in Ohio. Mr. Chavez dedicated his entire adult life to improve the plight of farmworkers across America. OCHLA actively advocated for the bill's passage this year, and in November, Senator Tavares was able to present sponsor testimony.

Cincinnati Latino Leaders Collaborative Meeting

The Collaborative held its first meeting this year in an effort to connect Cincinnati's Latino community leaders with the elected officials who serve them. The Collaborative meets on a quarterly basis to address issues impacting Cincinnati's Latino community. Mayor John Cranley, Senator Cecil Thomas, Representative Denise Driehaus, and the Offices of Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman played an active role in the Collaborative this year.



State Senator Cecil Thomas

June 24 at 4:32pm · 📍

Earlier this month, I had the honor of presenting at the Cincinnati Latino Leaders Collaborative organized by the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs (OCHLA). Several leaders discussed important issues that affect the Latino community. It was a pleasure to talk about our legislative priorities and the Ohio General Assembly's role in advancing our Latino communities with my colleague in the House of Representatives, Rep. Denise Driehaus.



The AmeriCorp Vista Program



In August, OCHLA was eager to welcome two AmeriCorps VISTA Members to its team. VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) was founded in 1965 as a national service program to fight poverty in America, and was later incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs.

Jesse Dotson, a native of Columbus and Ohio State graduate, works in Outreach and Social Media. He is helping to develop and implement a marketing and branding strategy to increase OCHLA's presence in the community. Jesse also manages OCHLA's website and social media.

Latisha Jeffrey, a native of Columbus and mother of three, works in Capacity Building. She conducts research, prepares trainings, and reports on the development of programs geared to increase capacity building for Latino grassroots organizations.



"Becoming an AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer at the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission has given me the opportunity to gain new experiences in outreach, social media, and developing an online presence.

I am very grateful to the Vista Program and especially to OCHLA.

Thank You."

Latisha Jeffrey

Second Year
AmeriCorps Vista

Organizations Development
Center

Capacity Building



Jesse Dotson

First Year
AmeriCorps Vista

Latino Community Network
Outreach & Social Media

"I started as a part-time AmeriCorps member in 2014 and served as a full-time AmeriCorps in 2015. This year I have the pleasure of sharing my year with another AmeriVista member and five other office staff that are constantly teaching or giving me opportunities to learn new skills, while also receiving new projects to enhance skills I already have.

Thank you, Ohio Commission of Hispanic/ Latino Affairs (OCHLA)."

OCHLA in the Media

While the Commission has a strong social media presence, the importance of engaging local media outlets to help disseminate information is critical to our mission. Below are a few articles initiated by OCHLA that have made it to print. OCHLA has collaborated with a number of organizations this year on earned media initiatives.

The Columbus Dispatch
News Sports Business Life & Entertainment Services Contact Subscribe
▶ **THE LEAD** Julia Davis • Rising laborer • Aging Hispanic workers • Hispanic entrepreneurs • 10/11/15 11:30 AM

Report: Foreign-born workers important to Ohio, U.S. economy

THE DAILY INSIGHT
▶ Public officials at Eastern College at Dayton on Dec. 19
▶ Julia Davis needs an evening, approved by her to do it in the Stateshouse
▶ Justice Paul Pfeifer called National Conference
▶ Mashed latino potatoes, Transpico in morning by 2015 U.S. Senate race

Backlog Forum Podcast
▶ In 2015's public, published and audio and video content from the Backlog Forum.

But more evidence suggests the contrary. Finding that the country's growing immigrant population is actually doing more to create businesses, generate income and taxes, and support the economy in Ohio and beyond, according to a new report.

"The importance of embracing Ohio's growing non-American community cannot be overstated," said Yang-Chen Liu, a visiting scholar professor at Ohio State University and founder of the Ohio Immigrant Public Inquiry Advisory Council.

Ohio & Michigan's Oldest and Largest Latino / Hispanic Newspaper
Since 1989

La Prensa
media kit ad specs classified ad rates about us con

Ohio Hispanic Businesses are an Emerging Economic Force
Op Ed by Andrea Mapeña Lewis, OCHLA

THE BLADE
News • Sports • A&E • Business • Opinion

New law requires migrant worker housing upgrades
By Lauren Lindstrom | Published Aug 13, 2015

El Sol de Ohio **The Sun of Ohio**

Guest Column
Latino elected officials and the evolving latino electorate in Ohio
Funcionarios hispanos y la evolución del electorado hispano en Ohio

28.5 MILLION LATINO ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN 2016
#iDecide2016

Latino to influence policy has become stronger and essential to this era of an segmented and varied population.

Notwithstanding the increase in size of the Latino electorate, Latinos remain significantly underrepresented at all levels of government. For example, should take into consideration the demographics of the Latino voting population in order to effectively implement and prioritize voter registration and civic engagement opportunities. It is only through effective efforts by and through the Latino community and advocacy groups that effective representation

By Andrea Mapeña Lewis
Public Affairs
Commissioner

Today's Interns, Tomorrow's Leaders



Our growing leadership and mentoring program continues to provide valuable opportunities for dedicated college students who work directly on thoughtfully selected OCHLA projects. This year we had interns from all over Ohio, including The Ohio State University, Capital University, Case Western Reserve University, Kenyon College and more.



The Numbers

Number of Interns/Volunteers This Year

13
New Volunteers
and Interns



Interns/Volunteers Hours Worked

2,348
Hours



Value of Interns/Volunteer Hours

\$55,318.88



WWW.CANALHISPANOTV.COM
Augusto Serna



2016 Impact Summary

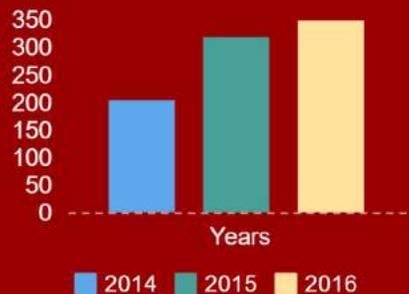
Directories Maintained By OCHLA

- Directory of Latino Serving Organizations - OLANet
- Ohio Latino Media Directory
- English as a Second Language Directory
- Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce Directory
- Translators and Interpreters Directory
- Legal Resources Directory
- Catalog of Latino Outreach Initiatives, State of Ohio
- NEW! Ohio Hispanic Serving Churches Directory
- NEW! Central Ohio Latino Health & Social Services Directory

Constituent Cases

The Ohio Latino Affairs Commission plays an important role in resolving constituent inquiries and using the cases to strategize where outreach, education and coordination efforts are needed to improve government service delivery. This year we have fielded nearly 350 inquiries from constituents.

Constituent Inquiries



Letter From A Constituent

Good afternoon OCHLA,

It was such a pleasure to meet you last week! Thank you so much for taking the time to meet with me and provide such great resources. I appreciate your passion, excitement and your willingness to be a connector. I look forward to possible collaborations and being more involved with the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission and the community in general.

*Muchas gracias y un fuerte abrazo,
Yolanda*

Community visits attended:

215

Latino Organizations in Ohio:

339

Legislative Briefings and Community Update E-Campaigns:

37

Meetings with Legislators:

32

Commendations facilitated by OCHLA for community members:

23

Grant Opportunities Promoted Through E-campaigns:

35

Event attendees:

1,556

Partners/Collaborators:

29

Facebook Likes:

1,335

Website, Facebook & Twitter Postings:

5,337

Jobs and Events promoted:

2,707

Speaking Engagements:

32

Events orchestrated:

13

Hispanic Heritage Month Events:

9

Our Core Values

Building cooperation and understanding between Hispanic Ohioans and Government by providing Hispanics with information, resources and by informing the Governor, Legislature and state agencies about Hispanic issues throughout the state.

Collaborating with the community by promoting community awareness, education, engagement and inclusion in mainstream society to ensure Latinos are part of the foundation and fabric of the state.

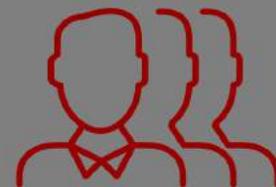
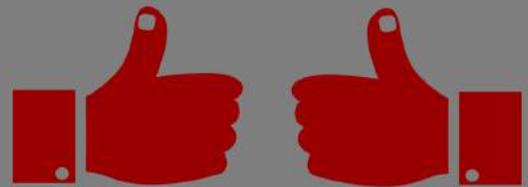
Partnering with state agencies to create institutional change to assure equity and access to culturally competent programs and services for Latinos.

Identifying matters impacting the Latino community through public policy analysis and data driven research to form the foundation for institutional and systemic change in the Ohio state government.

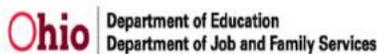
Engaging with the National Latino Agenda and aligning our initiatives with the efforts that seek the integration and empowerment of Latinos in the United States.

Planning the work of the commission based on strategic priorities that consistently impact and address the needs of the Latino community in Ohio. The strategic plan is the road map that guides the Commission in identifying future initiatives and goals.

Encouraging new ideas and supporting openness and acceptance of differing ideas or beliefs. The commission respects the opinions of others and will provide a safe environment for all voices, opinions, ideas and beliefs.



Our commission partnered with numerous public and private entities this year to bring forth programs, trainings and information to Hispanic Ohioans.



Connect With Us:



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+OhioLatinoAffairsCommissionAdvis
eConnectBuild



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