

Summary of Current Hispanic Center Research Projects

Below we provide a summary of the research projects underway at the National Research Center on Hispanic Children and Families across our priority areas:

- **Priority Area 1:** *Self-Sufficiency and Poverty Reduction*
- **Priority Area 2:** *Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRF)*
- **Priority Area 3:** *Early Care and Education*
- **Priority Area 4:** *Cross-Cutting Topics*

Priority Area 1: Poverty and Self-Sufficiency

The objectives of Priority Area 1 (PA1) are to better understand: 1) the role of policy and practice in shaping social service utilization, 2) dependency on government assistance and economic self-sufficiency, and 3) implications for child well-being.

1. **Profile of state Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) policies in states with high populations of low-income Hispanic children.** This project will catalogue TANF state policy provisions, focusing on policy/practice dimensions that are particularly salient for Hispanic families, such as: eligibility requirements around English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and work hours; household and work documentation requirements; recertification requirements including the treatment of seasonal work; the availability of program information and/or application online in Spanish; and others. Earlier work documented variations in state level CCDF policy in 13 states, where collectively 80% of low-income Hispanic children live. We found substantial state variations suggesting that families residing in these states experience different access barriers based on the state-level implementation of CCDF subsidy receipt.
2. **The education trajectories and economic mobility of Hispanic Parents.** This project will use data from the 2004, '08, and '14 Survey of Income Participation (SIPP) to document completed education and changes in, or accumulation of education, or related certification or training across these SIPP panels, among Hispanic parent-respondents.

Priority Area 2: Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood

The work in Priority Area 2 (PA2) seeks to improve the field's understanding of the diversity and quality of family life—marriages and relationships, fatherhood, parenting, and family functioning—of low-income Latinos in ways that inform policy development and programmatic responses.

1. **Barriers and facilitators among Hispanics to Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRF) program participation and success.** This project will include a review of existing program data on Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education (HMRE) and Responsible Fatherhood (RF) programs that are high Hispanic serving (i.e., over 50% of the participants are Hispanic) or are in communities with a high proportion of Hispanics. In the review of the current HMRE and RF programs we will assess, quantitatively, the ability of programs to reach and retain Hispanic participants.
2. **Hispanic parenting and parent engagement, implications for HMRF programs.** This project will use the ECLS-B and Supporting Healthy Marriage dataset to examine questions intended to improve our understanding of Hispanic families across three dimensions: parent engagement, family relationships, and household resources. We also will review federally funded Responsible Fatherhood programs to explore whether they include meaningful parenting and co-parenting components that align with the existing research literature, for example whether they

incorporate a developmental perspective. Finally, we explore whether they incorporate cultural values, and if the programmatic components align with the needs and behaviors of Hispanic families.

Priority Area 3: Early Care and Education (ECE)

This research area seeks to: 1) advance understanding of ECE issues for the heterogeneous population of low-income Hispanic families; 2) promote informed ECE choices among Hispanic parents and identify mechanisms to increase access across diverse communities; and 3) improve the quality of ECE services and coordination across systems to better support early learning among Hispanic children.

- 1. ECE access for Hispanic infants and toddlers: In-depth profile.** Data from the 2012 National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) will be used to examine the family and contextual factors that predict if, when, and with whom low-income Hispanic infants and toddlers experience non-parental care.
- 2. Child Care Policy Study.** This project seeks to continue prior center work by conducting an in-depth qualitative study of state-level child care policies in the areas of eligibility, documentation, and other aspects of access to CCDF subsidies that may serve to constrain or facilitate access to child care for low-income Hispanic families in states with high density of Hispanic children.

Priority Area 4: Cross-Cutting Topics

The goal of the cross-cutting area is to examine cross-cutting, emerging research issues related to ACF's programmatic and policy priorities. The type of projects that will be carried out in this domain include: 1) statistical profiles and portraits and 2) research projects, akin to what is proposed for other areas.

- 1. Statistical Portrait Series.** Descriptive data analytic work on three topics: 1) education of low-income Hispanic parents, 2) mental health, and 3) housing costs and stability.
- 2. Job quality and family stability among Hispanic parents.** This project builds on our earlier work examining the job characteristics of Hispanic parents and expands it to new dimensions. This includes: looking at the safety and autonomy of Hispanic parents' occupations, exploring the stability of various dimensions of job quality over time, and linking job quality to family stress and stability.
- 3. The ECE experiences of mixed-status Hispanic families.** This project will link the characteristics of likely unauthorized immigrant Hispanic parents identified in the SIPP to examine the job characteristics and employment patterns of Hispanic parents, comparing those who are U.S.-citizens and legal immigrants to those who are likely unauthorized immigrants.