



HISPANIC EDUCATION COALITION

March 21, 2014

RE: Hispanic Education Coalition Funding Priorities for FY 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the Hispanic Education Coalition (HEC), which unites more than 20 organizations dedicated to improving educational opportunities and outcomes for the more than 54 million Latinos and Latinas living in the United States and Puerto Rico, we urge you to support the following critical programs that reach millions of Latino students. Our coalition previously expressed concern over the impact of sequestration, which went into effect on March 1, 2013.

Your continued support for FY 2015 is critical to help mitigate the widespread negative effect of the sequestration's cuts have on Latino children. Latino students experience a multiplier effect when programs are cut, because many are simultaneous beneficiaries of several programs including: Title I Part C, Title III, TRIO, HEP, and GEAR UP. Although some cuts resulting from sequestration have been lifted, most programs that benefit Latino children have either been level-funded or cut since 2012. Level funding, when corresponding with large population increases, results in effective cuts to these programs. Funding should, at a minimum, increase with the population.¹

In addition to the traditional Hispanic-serving education programs HEC prioritizes, HEC would also like to press for funding for a proposed new program from the President's FY 2015 budget, known as "Race to the Top – Equity and Opportunity." This would be a competitive grant program that would encourage states and localities to aggressively target opportunity and achievement gaps; enhance data systems to place a sharp focus on districts, schools, and student groups with the greatest disparities in opportunities and performance; and develop thoughtful comprehensive strategies to address these gaps.

We request that the following education programs be funded at the following critical levels for fiscal year 2015:

Programs	FY 2012 <i>(in millions of dollars)</i>	FY 2013 <i>(in millions of dollars)</i>	FY 2014 <i>(in millions of dollars)</i>	President's FY 2015 Proposal <i>(in millions of dollars)</i>	HEC Request for FY 2015 <i>(in millions of dollars)</i>
New Program: "Race to the Top – Equity and Opportunity"	--	--	--	300	300
Head Start	7,968	7,573	8,598	8,868	9,621
Title III of ESEA: Language Acquisition State Grants	726	693	723	723	800
Title I, Part C, ESEA: Migrant Education Program	393	372	374	374	475
Federal TRIO Programs	840	795	838	838	890

¹ See Pew Hispanic, *The U.S. Hispanic population has increased sixfold since 1970*, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/02/26/the-u-s-hispanic-population-has-increased-sixfold-since-1970/> (Feb. 26, 2014) (finding that the Latino population has steadily increased since 1970, and that it has increased by 50% since 2000). This corresponds to a yearly 3.33% population increase. Latino educational programs must at a minimum keep up with population increase, which equates to a minimum of 3.33% increase per year. HEC also believes that because of level funding since 2012, all programs should have a one-time increase in FY15, of a minimum of 10%, to make up for this three-year shortfall.

Programs	FY 2012 <i>(in millions of dollars)</i>	FY 2013 <i>(in millions of dollars)</i>	FY 2014 <i>(in millions of dollars)</i>	President's FY 2015 Proposal <i>(in millions of dollars)</i>	HEC Request for FY 2015 <i>(in millions of dollars)</i>
Special Programs for Migrant Students (HEA IV-A-5): High School Equivalency Program (HEP) and College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)	37	36	34	34.6	50
Hispanic-Serving Institutions: Title V, Part A of the HEA: undergraduate support	100.4	95.4	98.6	98.6	117
Hispanic-Serving Institutions: Title V, Part B of the HEA: graduate support	9	8.5	8.8	8.8	10.5
Title II of the Workforce Investment Act: Adult Basic Literacy Education Grants	606	563	563	608	750
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)	302	286	301	301.63	323.21
Family Literacy Programs replacing Even Start ²	0	0	0	0	150
² The HEC has long advocated for the William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program. Unfortunately, funding for this program was eliminated in 2011. To replace the Even Start Program, the administration proposed consolidating the program into an "effective Teaching and Learning" funding stream. This proposal has yet to be implemented. The Department of Education has found that there is a direct connection between parent literacy levels and the academic success of the child. A high proportion of the Even Start program participation was in the Hispanic community. Thus, a similar family literacy program is essential for the success of all Hispanic children. The HEC strongly recommends a dedicated funding stream specifically for the use of family literacy programs that integrate early childhood education, adult education, and parenting education.					

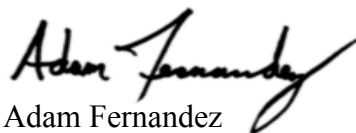
While not an exhaustive list, the above programs provide Latino students with support, mentoring, academic preparation, counseling, and vital resources to foster their educational development. We urge you to champion the needs of our children. We thank you in advance for your support.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the HEC co-chairs: Luis Torres of the League of United Latin American Citizens, at latorres@lulac.org, or Adam Fernandez of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, at afernandez@maldef.org.

Sincerely,



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League of United Latin
American Citizens (LULAC)



Adam Fernandez
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