

Mobility & Opportunity

California's budget provides \$15 million for UCLA to create the Latina Futures 2050 project

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Today, Governor Newsom signed California's state budget which allocated \$15 million to UCLA's Latino Policy and Politics Institute (UCLA LPPI) to support policy research, leadership programs, and civic engagement with a Latina lens through the Latina Futures, 2050 Lab.

UCLA LPPI will build on the foundation laid by the California Latino Legislative Caucus' Unseen Latinas Initiative, created by the Legislature to address the continued and growing inequality Latinas experience in economic outcomes, career and leadership opportunities and education.

"When we created Unseen Latinas, we went to UCLA LPPI because we wanted to raise awareness of the lack of Latina women in the judicial system, or in the corporate boards or in the healthcare system," said Senator Maria Elena Durazo, chair of the Latino Legislative Caucus. "LPPI's research has allowed us to raise these issues and now we must push for solutions for the invisibility of Latina women."

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By 2050, Latinas will represent 13% of the U.S. population, 11% of the labor force, and have a median age 11 years younger than non-Hispanic white women. The Latina Futures, 2050 Lab will accelerate research and provide critical data and insights that reach decision-makers. The 2050 Lab, in collaboration with Veronica Terriquez, Director of the Chicano Studies Research Center, will invest in scholarly interventions that advance a Latina lens to shape policy-making that remedies gender inequity with visibility and inclusion.

"We thank the Governor and Legislature for recognizing that Latinas are inextricably linked with the future of California and this nation," said Sonja Diaz, founding director of UCLA LPPI. "The pandemic made clear that Latinas have borne the brunt of the economic fallout and remain invisible, disposable, and even inconsequential at decision-making tables. By leveraging the research might of the University of California, we can ensure Latinas are woven into the American story, and are seen as consequential to the nation's law and policy debates."

California's 2023 Budget also included ongoing funding to sustain UCLA LPPI's growth and allow for the Initiative to transition to an official Institute at UCLA. Founded in 2017, UCLA LPPI was created to address critical domestic policy challenges facing Latinos and other communities of color. Since its inception, UCLA LPPI has championed Latina leadership and utilized the power of research, advocacy, mobilization and leadership development to propel policy reforms that expand genuine opportunity for all Americans.

With UCLA LPPI as a leading Latino policy institute, UCLA continues to make critical strides towards its goal of achieving federal designation as a **Hispanic-Serving Institution** by 2025.