

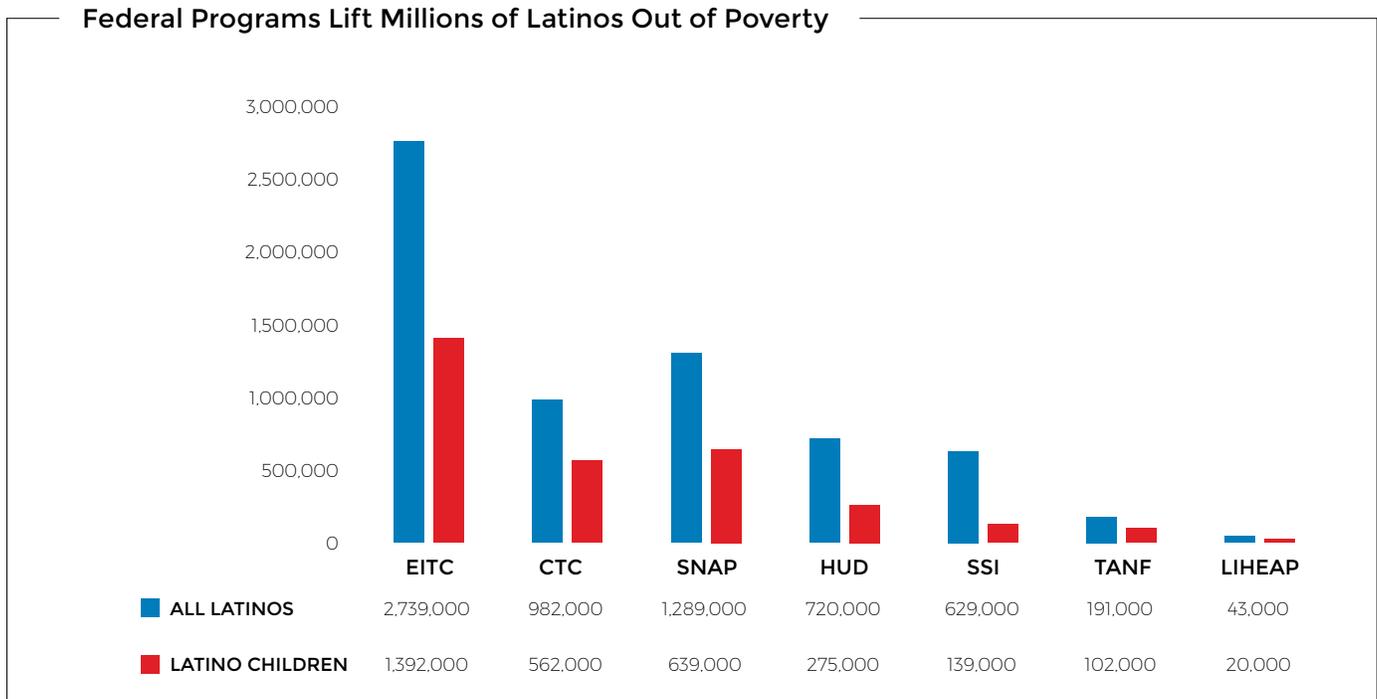
FEDERAL PROGRAMS LIFT MILLIONS OF LATINOS OUT OF POVERTY

Latinos* represent one in six Americans and are poised to shape the nation's future as one of the fastest-growing segments of the population.¹ Today, the U.S. Hispanic population stands at 56 million and, by 2050, is estimated to reach 106 million, accounting for one out of every four people in the country.² The Hispanic community's size, work ethic, and resilience have contributed to the national economic resurgence following the Great Recession. Nevertheless, a considerable portion of Latinos continue to lag behind, struggling to put food on their tables and a roof over their heads. In 2015, about 22% of Latinos were living in poverty, compared to 14% of all Americans.³

For more than 50 years, anti-poverty programs have helped ensure that working families are lifted out of poverty when times are tough or their wages are too low for them to be able to make ends meet. These programs are collectively known as the "social safety net" and are at risk. The Trump administration's budget request for fiscal year 2018 aims to undermine these programs by imposing unprecedented cuts to fund tax breaks for both corporations and the extremely wealthy on the backs of the most vulnerable members of our communities.⁴ Proposed cuts to these programs would have a significant effect on the millions of Latinos who struggle to make ends meet. Using data from the U.S. Census Supplemental Poverty Measure, this fact sheet provides evidence of the strong anti-poverty effect of selected supports, including the number or share of Latinos participating and lifted out of poverty.†

* The terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout this document to refer to persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, Spanish, and other Hispanic descent; they may be of any race. UnidosUS (formerly the National Council of La Raza) is the largest Latino advocacy organization in the United States. Any reference to the National Council of La Raza or NCLR in this document refers to analysis conducted by UnidosUS prior to its name change on July 10, 2017.

† In this analysis, the poverty rate and number of people in poverty is based on the U.S. Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), which extends the official poverty measure by taking into consideration many of the government programs (i.e., tax credits and noncash transfers) designed to assist low-income individuals that are not included in the current official poverty measure. While the Census SPM provides a more complete view of the anti-poverty effect of government transfers than the official measure, the SPM still understates these effects because households in Census surveys, as in many surveys, tend to underreport their income from government programs. For more information about underreporting in the SPM, see Arloc Sherman and Danilo Trisi, "Safety Net More Effective Against Poverty Than Previously Thought," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, May 6, 2015.



Source: NCLR analysis of 2016 data from Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement & Supplemental Poverty Measure public use files (Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016) <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>.

Federal Refundable Tax Credits

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)



- In tax year 2015, 27 million tax filers received \$67 billion worth of tax credits through the EITC, and the latest Census data show that 34% of EITC beneficiaries were Latino.⁵
- EITC lifted approximately 2.7 million Latinos out of poverty in 2015, including approximately 1.4 million Latino children.⁶

Child Tax Credit (CTC)



- In tax year 2014, 19.8 million tax filers received \$26.6 billion worth of tax credits through the refundable portion of the CTC, and the latest Census data show that 33% of CTC beneficiaries were Latino.⁷
- CTC lifted an estimated 981,000 Latinos out of poverty in 2015, including an estimated 560,000 Latino children.⁸

Federal Anti-Poverty Programs



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- In February 2017, 42.2 million people received food assistance through SNAP, and the latest Census data show that 22% of SNAP households were Latino.⁹
- SNAP lifted approximately 1.3 million Latinos out of poverty in 2015, including approximately 640,000 Latino children.¹⁰



Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- As of December 2016, there were 8.3 million people receiving SSI benefits, and the latest Census data show that 15% of SSI beneficiaries were Latino.¹¹
- SSI lifted approximately 630,000 Latinos out of poverty in 2015, including approximately 140,000 Latino children.¹²



Rental Assistance

- Of the 4.5 million households receiving federal rental assistance, approximately 738,000 were Latino households.¹³
- Federal rental assistance lifted approximately 720,000 Latinos out of poverty in 2015, including approximately 270,000 Latino children.¹⁴



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

- Of the 3.1 million households receiving TANF in FY 2015, 37% were Latino.¹⁵
- TANF lifted approximately 190,000 Latinos out of poverty in 2015, including approximately 100,000 Latino children.¹⁶



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- Of the six million households receiving federal help to pay their energy bills in fiscal year 2016, the latest Census data show that approximately 23% of beneficiaries were Latino.¹⁷
- LIHEAP lifted approximately 40,000 Latinos out of poverty in 2015, including approximately 20,000 Latino children.¹⁸

Endnotes

All sources accessed May 2017.

- 1 U.S. Census Bureau. "American FactFinder: Selected Population Profile in the United States: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates." https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_S0201&p.Table=S0201.
- 2 Ibid; and Jens Manuel Krogstad. "With Fewer New Arrivals, Census Lowers Hispanic Population Projections." (Washington, DC: Pew Research Center, 2014) <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/12/16/with-fewer-new-arrivals-census-lowers-hispanic-population-projections-2/>.
- 3 National Council of La Raza (NCLR) analysis of 2016 data from Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement & Supplemental Poverty Measure public use files (Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016) <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>.
- 4 NCLR. "Fiscal Year 2018 Federal Budget: A Preliminary Assessment of the President's Request." (Washington, DC: NCLR, 2017) http://publications.nclr.org/bitstream/handle/123456789/1724/nclr_budgetassessment.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y.
- 5 Internal Revenue Service. "Statistics for Tax Returns with EITC." (Washington, DC: IRS, 2017) <https://www.eitc.irs.gov/EITC-Central/eitcstats>; and NCLR analysis of 2016 data from Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement & Supplemental Poverty Measure public use files (Washington, DC: Census, 2016) <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>.
- 6 NCLR analysis of 2016 data from Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement & Supplemental Poverty Measure public use files (Washington, DC: Census, 2016) <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>.
- 7 Internal Revenue Service. "IRS Statistics of Income Historical Table 2." (Washington, DC: IRS, 2017) <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-soi/14in54cmcsv.csv>; and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) analysis of 2013-2015 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates.
- 8 NCLR analysis of 2016 data from Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement & Supplemental Poverty Measure public use files (Washington, DC: Census, 2016) <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>.
- 9 United States Department of Agriculture. "National and/or State Level Monthly and/or Annual Data." (Washington, DC: USDA, 2017) <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>; and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analysis of 2013-2015 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates.
- 10 NCLR analysis of 2016 data from Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement & Supplemental Poverty Measure public use files (Washington, DC: Census, 2016) <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>.
- 11 Social Security Administration. "Research, Statistics, and Policy Analysis." (Washington, DC: SSA, 2017) https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/factsheets/cong_stats/; and CBPP analysis of 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.
- 12 NCLR analysis of 2016 data from Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement & Supplemental Poverty Measure public use files (Washington, DC: Census, 2016) <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>.
- 13 CBPP tabulation of Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2016 administrative data, produced by arrangement with HUD.
- 14 NCLR analysis of 2016 data from Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement & Supplemental Poverty Measure public use files (Washington, DC: Census, 2016) <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>.
- 15 Department of Health and Human Services. "Characteristics and Financial Circumstances of TANF Recipients, FY 2015." (Washington, DC: HHS, 2016) https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/characteristics_and_financial_circumstances_of_tanf_recipients.pdf.
- 16 NCLR analysis of 2016 data from Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement & Supplemental Poverty Measure public use files (Washington, DC: Census, 2016) <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>.
- 17 National Energy Assistance Directors' Association. "LIHEAP Long Form Data Reports." (Washington, DC: NEADA, 2016); and NCLR analysis of 2016 data from Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement & Supplemental Poverty Measure public use files (Washington, DC: Census, 2016) <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>.
- 18 NCLR analysis of 2016 data from Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement & Supplemental Poverty Measure public use files (Washington, DC: Census, 2016) <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>.