



# State of Connecticut

## Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

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## LPRAC Announces Formation of Latino Emergency Action Network

(Hartford, Conn. February 27, 2008) The budget proposal unveiled by Governor Rell, can only be described as direct attacks on the underserved, underrepresented and vulnerable populations in this state. Youth employment, community health programs, government advocates are all being eliminated and Husky premiums are rising. It is clear that the Governor plans to balance the state budget on the backs of the poor.

Today, we as community leaders and concerned citizens must take a stand against this disproportionate action. We ask you to join us in creating the Latino Emergency Action Network. Together we shall sound the alarm and make our people's voices heard loudly and clearly inside state government to preserve our community's continued access to resources and the state's power structure.

The Latino Emergency Action Network is being established because our people and our communities are bearing the full brunt of the economic downturn. Job losses, cuts in services, foreclosures and mounting debt are modern-day plagues in urban areas across the state that are overwhelmingly Latino.

Yet, the Governor is trying to sell us a state budget that will not only lay an even greater burden upon the state's most vulnerable and grossly underrepresented population but also eliminate their voice within state government.

Among the governor's proposed cuts that directly impact Latinos are:

- Funding for Connecticut's Youth Employment program is eliminated
- Funding for Jobs First Employment Services is reduced by approximately \$2.5 million
- Reduce AIDS Services funding
- Decreased funding for:
  - Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs
  - Community Services and Support for Persons with AIDS
  - Children's Health Initiative
  - Services for Children Affected by AIDS
  - Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Eliminate medical interpreters



Latinos make up roughly 12 percent of the state population yet we are the youngest and fastest growing segment of that population, making us Connecticut's future workforce and a population that should be invested in, in tough economic times, not relegated and dismissed as a line item.

We cannot allow this happen. Silence and inaction on our part now will set us back decades as a people and our children and grandchildren will continue to pay a heavy price.

Join the LPRAC and a growing number of Latino organizations working to present a unified front on behalf of our constituents and move forward with a single voice that will resonate in the halls of the legislature.

If you or your organization is interested in joining the Latino Emergency Action Network, call 860.240.8330.