

COVID-19 IMPACT ON LATINOS AND IMMIGRANTS

A report on Colorado nonprofit
organizations and communities
as of May 1, 2020

*LCFC's mission is to work hand in hand with our
diverse communities to create culturally
responsive strategies that build influence, equity
and opportunity for all Latino Coloradans.*



INTRODUCTION

The Latino Community Foundation of Colorado (LCFC) is one of only six philanthropic foundations in the United States dedicated to exclusively supporting the Latino community. As we and other statewide and national funders look to support the more than one million Latinos who contribute to the civic, economic and cultural vitality of Colorado life, we must examine the unique challenges that Latino Coloradans face.

Under everyday circumstances, Latino Coloradans may experience a variety of uncertainties or inequities as related to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals' status, racial harassment, policies that impact individuals who are undocumented or long-term systemic racism. Existing complex barriers for Latinos have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 disease-related global pandemic. In order to properly support our community financially, socially, and by other means, we must understand their unique challenges as they themselves report them, and as can be demonstrated through data. This document contains information to assist legislators, funders, nonprofit leaders and everyday Coloradans in understanding the current landscape at the intersection of Latino, immigrant and undocumented communities.

Sections one through three have been informed by commonly accessible national and statewide resources. Section four has been informed by personal interviews with and written reporting from Latino-led and -serving and immigrant and refugee-serving organizations, as well as community members, state officials and LCFC staff, board and consultants. LCFC believes in values-driven philanthropy. Both our responsive COVID-19 Grantmaking Strategy (section five) and this document are therefore community led, family-centered and guided by principles of cultural justice.

SECTIONS

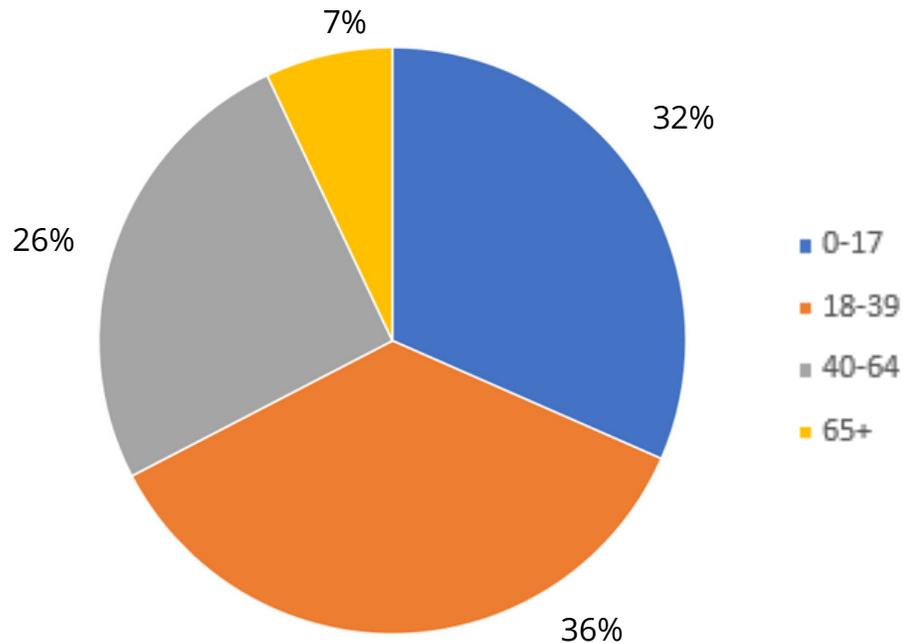
- I. Latinos and Immigrants in Colorado**
- II. COVID-19 aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Impact on Immigrants**
- III. How the COVID-19 Crisis is Impacting Latinos Statistically in Colorado**
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I. LATINOS AND IMMIGRANTS IN COLORADO

According to 2018 data from Migration Policy Institute, Colorado's population is made up of 5,696,000 individuals. Of these, 1,249,485 individuals (22% of the state population) identify as Latino and 549,181 individuals (10% of the state population) identify as immigrant or "foreign born." [\[Source\]](#)

The age breakdown of Colorado Latinos is as follows: [\[Source\]](#)



Ten percent of Colorado Latinos reside in the 24 counties within Colorado designated as "rural." [\[Source\]](#) [\[Source\]](#)

According to a 2017 report by the American Immigrant Council, the top countries of origin for immigrants in Colorado were Mexico (43.3 percent of immigrants), India (4.4 percent), Vietnam (3.2 percent), Germany (3.2 percent) and China (3.1 percent). A 2016 report from Pew Research Center reports there are 190,000 (3% of Colorado's state population) undocumented immigrants in Colorado. [\[Source\]](#)

II. COVID-19 AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT IMPACT ON IMMIGRANTS

Though many responsive services, funds, local policies, etc., have been developed and implemented to support Latinos and Latino families during this time of heightened severity of COVID-19, many response strategies fall short from approaching the Latino community holistically and inclusively. For example:

- **The Families First Coronavirus Response Act** mandates employers provide their employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave. While the Act covers testing for COVID-19 for individuals who access healthcare coverage through Medicaid, Medicare or the Affordable care Act and those who are uninsured, it does not cover testing for undocumented immigrants. Further, while there are no immigration status-related restrictions on eligibility for paid sick leave, it fails to recognize worker exploitation, failure to pay and other oppressive acts used by some employers. [\[Source\]](#) [\[Source\]](#)
- **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)** issued an alert clarifying that it will not consider testing, treatment, or preventive care (including the administration of vaccines, if a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available) related to COVID-19 in a “public charge” admissibility assessment, even if the health care services are provided by Medicaid. This means that people who are seeking pathways to citizenship will not be negatively impacted by pursuing COVID-19 related testing, treatment or preventative care. However, this still excludes people who are undocumented immigrants who entered the U.S. illegally. [\[Source\]](#)
- **The CARES Act** included economic impact payments of \$1200 to people eligible to file taxes whose income was below a pre-determined cap. However, in order to file taxes, a person must be eligible for employment as defined by the Internal Revenue Service, excluding undocumented immigrants. Further, if partners in a married couple used an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to file their taxes, no one in the household is eligible for the economic impact payment, regardless of whether they filed jointly. For mixed immigration status married taxpayers—where one taxpayer has a Social Security Number and the other taxpayer has an ITIN—the couple would need to file separately in order to claim the rebate for any eligible household members. However, filing separately may render a person ineligible for Affordable Care Act subsidies that may be larger than the Recovery Rebate. This Act further excludes people who are lower income who are not required to file for taxes. [\[Source\]](#)
- **Colorado Department of Labor and Employment** requires all persons 18 years and older to provide proof of lawful presence in the U.S. in order to receive unemployment benefits, excluding undocumented immigrants. [\[Source\]](#)

III. HOW THE COVID-19 CRISIS IS IMPACTING LATINOS STATISTICALLY IN COLORADO

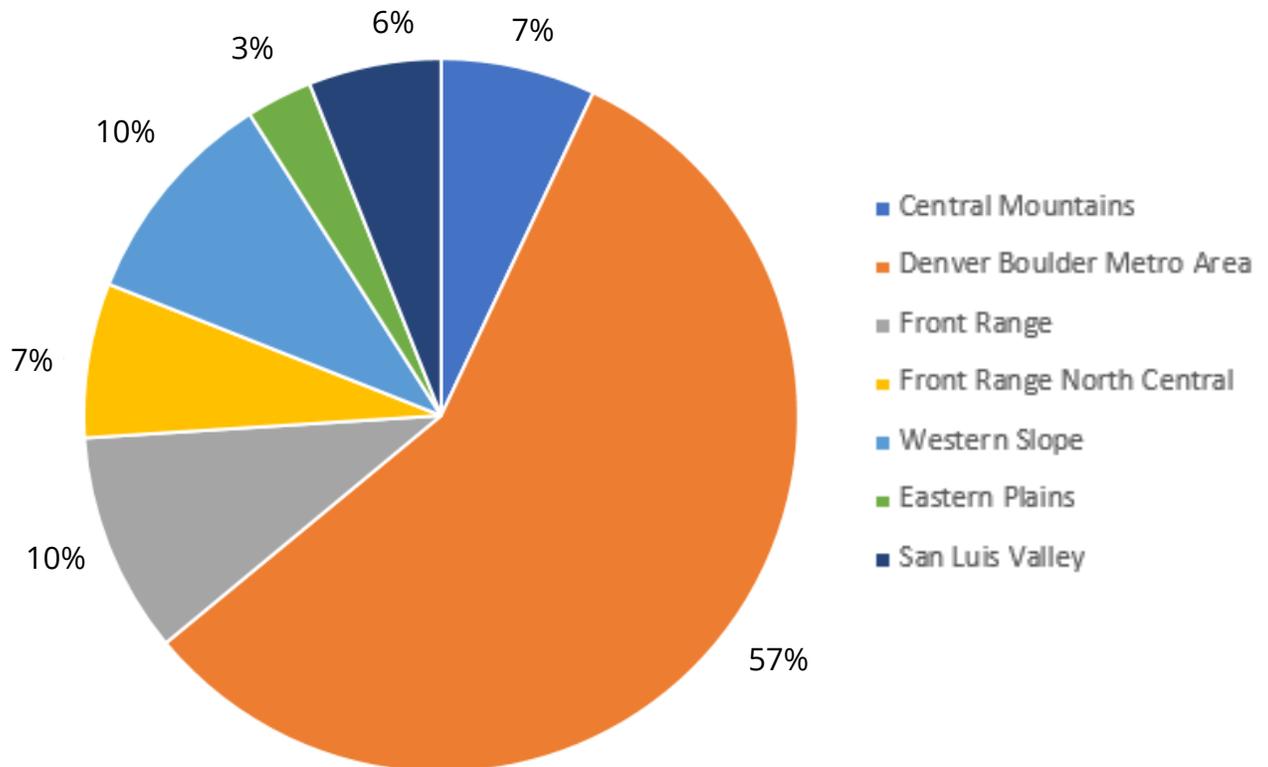
Many Latinos work in the leisure, hospitality, service, agriculture and construction industries (the last two greatly impacted) and are less likely to have health insurance and access support services. Key statistics include:

- While Latinos make up about 22% of the state's population, they account for approximately 45.8% of its COVID-19 cases. [\[Source\]](#),[\[Source\]](#)
- Only 16.2% of Hispanic workers can telework. [\[Source\]](#). To make matters worse, those Latino households who have children must navigate continuing to work while also providing adequate care for their children as schools shut their doors. Two out of three of Colorado's school-age children without internet are Hispanic. [\[Source\]](#)
- Around two-thirds of employed Hispanic adults (66%) say they would not get paid if COVID-19 caused them to miss work for two weeks or more. [\[Source\]](#).



IV. LESSONS LEARNED: COVID-19 IMPACT AS REPORTED BY LCFC GRANTEEES AND OTHERS

This data was collected from LCFC grantees through individualized phone interviews with contacts at nonprofit organizations, digital executive director roundtable sessions and self-reported information submitted in writing. Over 60 leaders at Latino-led and -serving and immigrant and refugee serving organizations provided the information referenced in this section. The geographic breakdown of those interviewed is as follows:



Responses have been divided into **Primary Concerns** and **Primary Needs**

IV. LESSONS LEARNED: COVID-19 IMPACT AS REPORTED BY LCFC GRANTEES AND OTHERS

continued

PRIMARY CONCERNS:

The following are the primary concerns identified by non-profit leaders. They have been consolidated when applicable and are listed starting with the most common concerns:

1. **Concern for vulnerable populations:**

- **College Students:** many out of work, are not eligible for stimulus programs and will not be able to continue school if they can't find work over the summer.
- **DACA Students:** renewal costs and an impending Supreme Court decision
- **Undocumented Individuals:** fear of accessing services due to uncertainty of safety
- **Hospitality and Service Industry Workers:** those that are deemed "essential" but are not afforded additional support or access to PPE.

2. **Rent and Utilities:** With lessened hours at work/ no work at all rent and utilities become a significant issue.

3. **Food Access:** There are many food banks, religious institutions, and schools that are offering food resources. Food access is only an issue insofar as some are shopping and spending limited funds.

4. **Household Items:** Aside from food, paying for and accessing other household items has proven difficult. Due to binge-buying and overconsumption many people cannot find essential items such as diapers, baby formula, baby wipes, hand soap, etc.

5. **Access Issues:**

- **Health service access:** testing access and care (ventilators, etc.) if they do contract COVID-19.
- **Masks:** Many cannot find masks though they are necessary when in public.

6. **Misinformation:** Regarding prevention of the virus, response from the government, who is eligible for what, and general uncertainty of the long-term implications of COVID-19.

7. **Work/Home Life Balance:** Grantees reported struggles with juggling work, children, extended family support, finances, close quarters and other issues.

8. **Mental Health:** With increased stress and anxiety people are needing support around coping with the newfound stressors.

IV. LESSONS LEARNED: COVID-19 IMPACT AS REPORTED BY LCFC GRANTEES AND OTHERS

continued

PRIMARY NEEDS OF NONPROFITS:

The following are the primary needs identified by nonprofit leaders. They have been consolidated when applicable and are listed alphabetically.

Advocacy

- Information about how COVID-19 is impacting refugee and immigrant communities
- Further information around undocumented people's safety in this crisis
- Xenophobia and hate crime increase for Asian-American population and immigrant community.

Communications and Accurate Resource Sharing

- Leaders reported needing effective strategies to connect Latino community with resources and services being offered.
- Most organizations cannot sift through many resource lists and feel overwhelmed by the amount of emails they are receiving in general.
- Organizations need culturally responsive resources that work for their community. For example, grantees report no Spanish language resources, overwhelming questions, and resources not necessarily applicable to undocumented people.

Crisis Management

- Assistance with shifting to working remotely
- Development of systems and being able to pivot work to COVID response
- Assistance building camaraderie among other Latino executive directors and leaders in order to not feel so alone in the space.

Funding and Finance Help

- Seeking new funding sources for new work arising due to COVID-19.
- Advice from a financial expert on budgeting amongst crisis and rebuilding.
- Best practices for virtual/ social distance fundraising.

IV. LESSONS LEARNED: COVID-19 IMPACT AS REPORTED BY LCFC GRANTEES AND OTHERS

PRIMARY NEEDS OF NONPROFITS: *continued*

Technological Support

- Many are utilizing new technologies and need skill building workshops
- Most technological resources have a cost and management of this is vital.

Wellness and Safety

- Self-care tools and techniques for mental and physical health for community and staff of nonprofits.
- How to avoid burnout and keeping up with the secondary trauma of working through a crisis.
- Volunteer organizations are worried about keeping staff and the safety of their volunteers

V. LCFC RESPONSE

LCFC's strategy, [Ayuda Colorado](#), announced in March 2020, has been designed specifically to support Latino led and serving (LLS) nonprofit organizations and immigrant and refugee serving (IRS) organizations through direct grants, capacity building services and resource assistance. LLS and IRS nonprofits are already amongst the most nimble, flexible and resourceful in serving our marginalized community and have expressed a need for multi-faceted support that extends beyond financial—the typical purview of foundations.

Grantmaking:

The Ayuda (Help) Colorado Fund launched with a goal of raising \$1.5 million. Through these funds, LCFC will provide grants for general operating support, technology and more to LLS/IRS organizations throughout 2020.

In Round 1, already completed, LCFC distributed \$100,000 to 43 organizations to assist with technology pivots required for remote work and services. Round 2, to be distributed in early May 2020, will provide \$300,000 to over 20 LLS and IRS organizations for general operating support. Round 3 will be announced in summer of 2020. For more information please contact Grants@LatinoCFC.org.

Capacity Building:

Launched in April 2020, LCFC has begun hosting skill-building webinars, discussion roundtables, and other digital events. These are open to leaders at LLS and IRS organizations. If you would like to learn more or request to join these sessions, please email CapacityBuilding@LatinoCFC.org.

Resources:

LCFC is filtering and vetting resources and funneling them to present and past grantees. LCFC will also be hosting key resources on the website in the near future. For more information, please contact ResourceList@LatinoCFC.org.

If you would like to donate directly to the Ayuda Colorado Fund, [please click here](#). 100% of individual donations will go to grantee organizations.

Ayuda Colorado Funders as of May 1, 2020 include:

Colorado Health Foundation, Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Colorado, Caring for Colorado, Gates Family Foundation, Rose Community Foundation, Energy Outreach Colorado, Xcel Energy, Alpine Bank and individual donors.

LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

- [LCFC AYUDA COLORADO WEBPAGE](#)
- [LCFC FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

Please email us at ImpactReport@LatinoCFC.org to let us know what you think of this document, provide ideas for future iterations, suggest corrections, or learn more about what we do.

