



# Latino Policy & Politics Initiative

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MEDIA CONTACT

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## UCLA LATINO POLICY AND POLITICS INITIATIVE STATEMENT ON GOV. NEWSOM'S BUDGET

Sonja Diaz, UCLA LPPI founding director, issued the following statement in response to announcement of Gov. Gavin Newsom's budget proposal:

"Early announcements from Gov. Gavin Newsom's budget offer hopeful signs that the state will leverage its budget surplus to prioritize the recovery of Californians who suffered the worst devastation amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The pandemic became a Latino crisis in California and the future of the world's fifth largest economy is dependent on the ability of the state's plurality to get back on its feet and prosper. Investments in rent debt relief, a focus on early education and tax rebates signal that our budget will reflect values of equity, justice and opportunity.

"We urge the Governor and state legislature to not waste the opportunity of the crisis our state experienced to set a roadmap that uplifts the communities who need help the most. We have a unique opportunity to set an agenda that commits to racial justice and ensures the health and wellbeing of all Californians."

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## ABOUT THE UCLA LATINO POLICY AND POLITICS INITIATIVE

The UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative addresses the most critical domestic policy challenges facing Latinos and other communities of color through research, advocacy, mobilization, and leadership development to expand genuine opportunity for all Americans.