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UCLA LATINO POLICY AND POLITICS INITIATIVE ANNOUNCES FOUNDATION SUPPORT FOR COVID RECOVERY RESEARCH AND MOBILIZATION EFFORTS

LOS ANGELES – [The UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative](#) (UCLA LPPI) announced today that it received \$750,000 in funding from The James Irvine Foundation to support comprehensive data collection and research on the impacts of COVID-19 on Latino workers in California. The grant will also support the development of a policy toolkit to improve the capacity of California lawmakers, business leaders and advocates to champion recovery efforts that center the state’s current and future workforce.

“Latinos are the current and future workforce of California and the road to prosperity runs through them,” **Sonja Diaz, founding director of UCLA LPPI** said. “Yet, we often lack the data necessary to make the best policy decisions and targeted investments to uplift Latinos. This generous funding from The James Irvine Foundation will enable us to advance evidence-based policy that increases opportunity and economic mobility for California’s Latinos, which is necessary for us all to thrive now and far into the future.”

UCLA LPPI aims to fill data gaps across eight issue areas with the grant: demography and population change; climate change and the environment; economic opportunity and social mobility; education; health; housing; child welfare; and voting rights and political representation. This data collection will enable UCLA LPPI to identify systemic barriers that limit social and economic mobility for California’s workforce and opportunities to remove obstacles that entrench inequity.

With Latinos being the largest ethnic/racial group in the country – which is only growing – and a plurality in California, understanding how and what they contribute to our country’s social and economic fabric as workers is imperative. Further, understanding the systemic barriers they face to employment, making a living wage and the opportunity to build new skills is a changing economy is critical to a strong recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through training provided to policymakers, advocates and other stakeholders, UCLA LPPI will leverage key findings and insights from their research to catalyze policy interventions that improve Latinos’ economic and social welfare in California. Ultimately, UCLA LPPI aims to empower stakeholders with data to accelerate on-the ground-outcomes for communities that create

prosperity across the state.

“We know that Latinos are essential to California’s future,” said Virginia Mosqueda of The James Irvine Foundation. “Supporting UCLA LPPI helps ensure our state leads the nation in offering Latino workers access to economic opportunity.”

The James Irvine Foundation is a private, nonprofit grantmaking foundation dedicated to expanding opportunity for the people of California. The Foundation’s current focus is a California where all low-income workers have the power to advance economically. Since 1937 the Foundation has provided more than \$2.09 billion in grants to organizations throughout California. The Foundation ended 2020 with more than \$3 billion in assets and provided \$109 million in grants. For more, please visit www.irvine.org.

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ABOUT UCLA LATINO POLICY AND POLITICS INITIATIVE

The UCLA Latino Policy & 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.