

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2025

California Faces a Physician Shortage Crisis. A Statewide Effort to Close the Gap Starts with Increasing Latino Physicians.

Latinos make up 40% of California's population yet make up just 6.7% of physicians. More Doctors for California (MD4CA) seeks to change that.

SACRAMENTO, CA – Today, the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (LCHC), together with more than 30 coalition partners across health systems, education, and community organizations, is proud to launch More Doctors for California (MD4CA). This statewide campaign will expand the physician pipeline to train the next generation of Latino talent and demand overdue investment in the current and future health of all Californians.

California is running out of physicians, and the shortage has already reached crisis levels. More than 11 million Californians live in areas without enough primary care physicians¹, and by 2030 the state will need more than 8,200 additional physicians to meet basic health needs². In the San Joaquin Valley, the shortage is among the worst in the state, with just 47 primary care physicians per 100,000 residents³. Patients are facing long waits for appointments, costs are rising statewide, and health disparities are deepening as access to basic healthcare hangs in the balance.

"The physician shortage is more than a workforce challenge, it's a public health and economic crisis that impacts families every day. More Doctors for California is a historic effort to expand the physician pipeline, advance equity, and strengthen our economy. Most importantly, it's about ensuring every community has access to the care they need to thrive."

SECIAH AQUINO, DRPH, MS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LATINO COALITION FOR A HEALTHY CALIFORNIA (LCHC)

-more content below-

¹ California Health Care Foundation. The Case for Investing in Primary Care in California. April 2022.
<https://www.chcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/CaseInvestingPrimaryCare.pdf#page=3>

² Robert Graham Center. California: State Physician Workforce Projections. 2025.
<https://www.graham-center.org/content/dam/rgc/documents/maps-data-tools/state-collections/workforce-projections/California.pdf>

³ California State Assembly. Bill Analysis of AB 730 (2025) – Health Workforce Equity Act. April 2025.
<https://ahed.assembly.ca.gov/system/files/2025-04/730-final.pdf>

For Latino communities, the impact is especially clear. Latinos make up nearly 40% of California's population and are projected to become the majority by 2050⁴. Yet they represent just 6.7% of California's physicians⁵. This shortage means fewer doctors who share language and cultural understanding with their patients, leading to worse health outcomes and eroded trust in care. This gap not only harms Latino families, it weakens California's entire healthcare system and economy.

"When patients can see doctors who speak their language and understand their culture, health outcomes improve. Expanding the diversity of California's physician workforce isn't just about equity, it's about saving lives."

LUPE ALONZO-DÍAZ
PRESIDENT, PHYSICIANS FOR A HEALTHY CALIFORNIA

That's why the More Doctors for California (MD4CA) campaign is reshaping California's medical workforce by:

- Protecting and expanding existing pathways to become a physician.
- Removing barriers that keep Latino and underrepresented students from becoming physicians.
- Partnering with schools, colleges, and medical institutions to expand opportunities.
- Building clear pathways from classrooms to clinics, so California communities have the physicians they need.

"When we remove barriers for Latino and underrepresented students to become doctors, we don't just change careers, we change communities, outcomes, and the trajectory of California's healthcare system."

MARTHA SANTANA-CHIN,
CEO, L.A. CARE HEALTH PLAN

-more content below-

⁴ Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). California's Population. 2025. <https://www.ppic.org/publication/californias-population/>

⁵ Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). U.S. Physician Workforce Data Dashboard. 2025. <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/report/us-physician-workforce-data-dashboard>

With a GDP of more than \$1 trillion⁶, Latinos power California's economy, helping make it the fourth largest in the world⁷. If California hopes to remain the world's fourth largest economy, it must invest in Latino health and the Latino physician workforce. Ensuring more Latinos become physicians strengthens care for every community and secures the state's economic future.

That's why *More Doctors for California* (MD4CA) is calling on policymakers, education systems, and health leaders to act now. Without urgent investment in California's physician pipeline, access to care will continue to erode, deepening inequities for Latino and other underrepresented communities across the state.

"A physician workforce that mirrors California's diversity isn't just a goal, it's a clinical necessity for improving health outcomes. The critical shortage of Latino physicians undermines trust and connection for too many families. Investing in clear pathways for Latino students to enter medicine is fundamental to building a more equitable and effective health system for all Californians."

KATHRYN E. PHILLIPS, MPH
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
CALIFORNIA HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

Join the campaign by visiting moredoctorsforcalifornia.com and following along on social media using the hashtags **#MoreDoctorsforCA** and **#MásDoctoresParaCA**.

Media Contact:

More Doctors for California (alps@lchc.org)

Media Kit Available Upon Request

This campaign is led by the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (LCHC), which you can learn more about [here](#).

-additional quotes below-

⁶ UCLA Newsroom. (2023, September). Latino GDP report shows California's Latino economy now \$1 trillion. UCLA. <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/california-latino-gdp-report>

⁷ Office of Governor Gavin Newsom. California is Now the 4th Largest Economy in the World. Press Release, April 23, 2025. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/04/23/california-is-now-the-4th-largest-economy-in-the-world/>

Quotes from Our Coalition Partners

"The legislature can and should rally around this effort. By investing in the next generation of Latino physicians, we are building a future where health equity is more than an aspiration: it is the lived reality for Latino Californians across the state."

BERENICE NUÑEZ CONSTANT
LCHC BOARD CHAIR

"As Co-Chair of this historic statewide campaign...I am proud to support the spirit of More Doctors For California (MD4CA). This initiative establishes a playbook to invest in human capital across all educational pathways and spark an interest in medical careers so that more aspiring physicians can meet the health care needs of our state. We are honored to support the 3rd Annual celebration of the National Latino Physician Day – this day is a call to action: #7%IsNotEnough!"

HECTOR FLORES, MD
MEDICAL DIRECTOR, ALTAIS/FCS MEDICAL GROUP
PRESIDENT-ELECT, LA COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

"It behooves California to invest in Latino health. Latinos are the backbone of our state's labor force and economy, contributing billions to our GDP each year. Ensuring we have Latino physicians to care for our communities is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do."

DR. DAVID HAYES-BAUTISTA
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND DIRECTOR
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LATINO HEALTH AND CULTURE, UCLA