



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION FOR  
LATINO  
COMMUNITY  
ASSET  
BUILDERS

2/3/2023

Task Force on New Americans  
Listening Session: Evidence and Data

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Oscar Marroquin, representing NALCAB and I appreciate the opportunity to comment on question #6 during this Listening session.

NALCAB, the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders, is a US Treasury certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that represents and serves over 200 diverse nonprofit community development and asset-building organizations across the country. Over half of our members are lenders, more than 50 of which are certified CDFIs. These organizations uplift Latino communities by strengthening access to quality affordable housing, safe financial products and services and the ability to start and grow successful businesses. Many of the people served by the NALCAB Network are low- to moderate-income individuals who are first- or second-generation immigrants.

Given that many of the population served are first- or second-generation immigrants, we have seen plenty of gaps in data such as with loan approval data amongst immigrants, Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) holder data, and economic data for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. Too often there is a lack of data, despite a swath of anecdotal evidence that immigrant populations and for our purposes, ITIN holders and DACA recipients, are major cogs in American Economy- and thus should be recognized and treated as such. Above all, we seek accurate and transparent data and offer the recommendation below to better achieve this with greater efficiency and collaboration.

In moving forward and trying to fill these data gaps, we urge future data collection efforts to explicitly partner with trusted grassroots organizations in immigrant communities for their outreach efforts. The consistent gaps in immigrant data, and miscounts where data is available, point to an inability to connect with the immigrant population. Organizations such as NALCAB and those in our membership networks have deep roots in these communities and the trust of residents who may otherwise not be reached by traditional outreach methods. To that end, we recommend that not only should the federal, state and local government work in greater conjunction with local organizations; but also rely on the outreach infrastructure they have already built within their communities. These organizations are best placed to create meaningful contacts with individuals, through their understanding of what mediums and language best reaches their population, elicits responses and creates greater buy-in amongst these groups.

Sincerely,

Oscar Marroquin, Public Policy Analyst