

Project Title (14-point bold)
Project Team: Lina Guzman, Ph.D. (Co-PI; Child Trends), Michael López, Ph.D. (Co-PI; Abt Associates), along with co-investigators Natasha Cabrera, Ph.D. (University of Maryland); Lisa Gennetian, Ph.D. (New York University); Julia L. Mendez, Ph.D. and Danielle Crosby, Ph.D. (University of North Carolina at Greensboro); and Mindy Scott, Ph.D. (Child Trends), who head up the research agendas for the Center’s three priority areas. Also, Elizabeth Wildsmith, Ph.D. (Project Director; Child Trends) and Michelle Blocklin, Ph.D. (Abt Project Director).
Grant or Contract Number: HHS-2013-ACF-OPRE-PH-0576
Period of Funding: 2013-2018

Project Description.

To help programs and policy better serve Hispanic children and families, Child Trends and Abt Associates launched the National Research Center on Hispanic Children and Families (Center). The Center was established in 2013 by a five-year cooperative agreement from the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation within the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Center is a hub of research to improve the lives of Hispanics across three priority areas—poverty reduction and self-sufficiency, healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood, and early care and education. A key goal of the Center is to build capacity within the research, policy, and practice communities, in part by training and increasing the number of young scholars focused on low-income and vulnerable Hispanic children and families. To foster emerging scholars, the Center launched a Summer Research Fellowship Program in 2014. Participating fellows have the opportunity to see how rigorous research is done in a non-academic environment and in ways that impact programmatic and policy issues of relevance to those serving Hispanic children and families.

The Center has three focus areas:

Poverty Reduction and Self-Sufficiency

The primary goal of this research area is to advance the understanding of poverty and economic self-sufficiency among Hispanic families, and the implications of these conditions for the programs and policies aimed to support and promote the development of Hispanic children.

Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood

The primary goals of this research area are to: a) advance the understanding of marriage, relationships, and fatherhood among Hispanics, including related issues such as parenting, family stability, and family functioning; and b) generate research-based information to inform the development of policies and programs that are culturally appropriate and responsive to the needs of Hispanic families.

Early Care and Education (ECE)

The primary goal of this research area is to advance understanding of ECE issues for low-income Hispanic families, including related issues such as: a) improving the quality of ECE services and coordination across ECE systems to support early learning for the heterogeneous population of Hispanic children; and, b) increasing access to and promoting informed ECE choices among Hispanic parents.

Progress Update

In the first year, we accomplished a substantial amount of work across priority areas and activities. This work is laying the foundation for a very productive second year.

- We made great strides in advancing our research agenda across priority areas. As such, roughly ten products, reflecting research carried out in Year 1 are in line to be released over the next two to three quarters, with our first product having been released on October 15th.
- We continued to work with the inaugural cohort of summer research fellows; the fellows worked on their independent research projects, presented their work to the Steering Committee, assisted in a supplemental research activity, attended briefings and meetings with strategic partners, and wrote blog posts.
- We engaged in a number of other Building Capacity activities: we hosted a mentoring lunch at the Head Start Research conference; and we hosted a webinar presentation on tools, methods, and findings related to Dr. Adam Winsler's early childhood work in Miami. We also began preparations for

attendance and participation at several conferences, including NCFR, CCPRC, and PAA, and began preparation for the release of the year 2 summer fellows announcement.

- We continued to reach out to relevant stakeholders and conducted listening tours with a variety of policy and practitioner audiences. We held meetings with SRCD, ASA and COSSA, Pew Hispanic Research Center, Avance, and the National Alliance for Hispanic Families.

For more information:

The Center welcomes requests for more information about its work and/or partnership opportunities – please contact either Lina Guzman, Ph.D. (lguzman@childtrends.org) or Michael López, Ph.D. (Michael_Lopez@Abtassoc.com).