



One Year of the Healey-Driscoll Administration

Elevating the Latino Community

Governor Healey and Lt. Governor Driscoll recognize the strength and importance of the role of the Latino Community in Massachusetts. The administration has worked to close gaps and ensure that this community, which faces many barriers, like language access, has opportunities and space to thrive in our state. During the first year in office, the Healey-Driscoll administration focused on introducing and implementing key policies and creating and funding programs to keep advancing the Latino community. Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor will continue to work for the prosperity and equity of the Latino Community.

Improving equity across the entire Healey-Driscoll administration in efforts to support the well-being of the Latino Community:

- Created the Governor's Advisory Council on Latino Empowerment.
- Initiated an equity assessment across the entire administration.
- Signed an Executive Order to increase language access across state government. The EO aims to make the delivery of services and resources more accessible and equitable for residents with limited English proficiency by requiring executive department agencies to develop Language Access Plans.
- Created the position of Director of Multicultural Media in the press office to ensure meaningful engagement with hard-to-reach and multilingual communities.
- Appointed new leadership for the Office for Refugees and Immigrants, as well as allocated more funding for it.

Proactively enhancing the experience for the Latino community to access mobility, education and prosperity:

- Implemented the Work and Family Mobility Act, which allowed undocumented immigrants in the state to obtain a Massachusetts license.
 - First Six Months of New Law Result in 91,961 New Learner's Permits and 54,952 New Driver's Licenses



- The amount of new learner's permits represents an increase of 244 percent, and new driver's licenses represents an increase of 120 percent, when compared to the same time period in 2022. In addition, 33,648 out of state conversions were processed.
- Signed in-state tuition for undocumented students, creating a more secure path for Latino students to access a more affordable higher education.
- Created MassReconnect, a no-cost community college for Massachusetts residents aged 25 and older and strengthened college and career pathways into good-paying jobs.
- Signed no-cost school meals for all K-12 students in the 2024 budget, – meaning parents no longer have to pay for school breakfast or lunch.
- Funded the third-year implementation of the Student Opportunity Act to ensure every student has access to the resources they deserve.
- Introduced the Affordable Homes Act, and partnered with the Black and Latino Caucus when develop the package and included several of their priorities including:
 - **\$50M** set aside for **MassDreams** to create first-time homebuyer opportunities for households in Disproportionately Impacted Communities.
 - The largest ever investment in the Commonwealth's public housing system: **\$1.6B**.
- Reinforced the efforts to support food security to our most vulnerable families by investing more dollars to SNAP benefits.
 - \$130 million for SNAP. This helped bridge the abrupt end of the enhanced federal COVID benefit for more than 630,000 Massachusetts families by providing a supplemental SNAP allotment to recipients equal to 40 percent of the previous federal benefit for three months.
 - Expanded SNAP benefits for undocumented immigrants in the FY23 Closeout Supplemental Budget adding \$6 million to provide better food security to this community.
- Ensured a community-based outreach efforts to support MassHealth redetermination process in linguistically, culturally appropriate and accessible ways.