

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

and

LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS



"Juntos Podemos" (Together We Can)

Prepared by
LULAC National Office and USDA Office of Civil Rights
Washington, D.C.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

and the

LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS

I. PARTIES

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework for cooperation between USDA and LULAC, under which the parties will carry out their separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner.

The MOU which will be known as "Juntos Podemos" (Together We Can), reflects the commitment of the parties to strengthen USDA's relationship and outreach activities with educational institutions, professional and minority organizations, and the overall Hispanic community as it carries out its missions.

Both parties share specific interest to increase efforts to provide opportunities for students and potential candidates for employment, research, and services to various program opportunities in the field of agriculture with an emphasis on research, development and technology and skills in math, science, and engineering.

III. AUTHORITIES

- A. Executive Order 13230, October 12, 2001, entitled, "President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans," advances the development of human potential, strengthens the nation's capacity to provide high-quality education, and increases opportunities for Hispanic Americans to participate in and benefit from Federal education programs.
- B. Executive Order 13171, October 12, 2000, entitled, "Hispanic Employment in the Federal Government," encourages the recruitment of qualified individuals from appropriate sources in an effort to achieve a workforce drawn from all segments of society. This Executive Order affirms ongoing policies and recommends additional policies to eliminate the under representation of Hispanics in the Federal workforce.
- C. Executive Order 13166, August 11, 2000, entitled, "Improving Access to Services for persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)," provides for the Federal government's commitment to improving the accessibility of Federally-assisted and direct Federal services to eligible LEP persons, a goal that reinforces its equally important commitment to promoting programs and activities designed to help individuals learn English.
- D. Executive Order 13162, July 6, 2000, entitled, "Federal Career Intern Program," discusses methods to attract exceptional men and women to the Federal workforce who have diverse professional experiences, academic training, and competencies, and prepare them for careers in analyzing and implementing public programs. "Career Intern" is a generic term, and agencies may use occupational titles as appropriate.

- E. Executive Order 13160, June 23, 2000, entitled, "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Race, Sex, Color, National Origin, Disability, Religion, Age, Sexual Orientation, and Status as a Parent in Federally Conducted Education and Training Programs," states no individual, on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or status as a parent, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in a federally conducted education or training program or activity.

- F. Executive Order 13078, March 13, 1998, entitled, "Increasing Employment of Adults with Disabilities," as amended by Executive Order 13172, October 25, 2000, intends to increase the employment of adults with disabilities to a rate that is as close as possible to the employment rate of the general adult population and to support the goals articulated in the findings and purpose section of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990.

- G. Census of Agriculture Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-113, November 21, 1997). The Census of Agriculture Act required in 1998 and every fifth year thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture shall take a census of agriculture. In connection with the Census, the Secretary may conduct any survey or other information collection, and employ any sampling or other statistical method that determines is appropriate. The information collected in each census taken shall relate to the year immediately preceding the year in which the census is taken.

- H. Child and Nutrition Act of 1966 (as amended through Public Law 106-580, December 29, 2000). A new dimension was added to school food services with the enactment of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966. "In recognition of the demonstrated relationship between food and good nutrition and the capacity of children to develop and learn, based on the years of cumulative successful

experience under the National School Lunch Program with its significant contributions in the field of applied nutrition research, it is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress that these efforts shall be extended, expanded, and strengthened under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture as a measure of safeguard the health and well-being of the nation's children, and to encourage the domestic consumption of agricultural and other foods, by assisting states, through grant-in-aid and other means, to meet more effectively the nutritional needs of our children."

- I. 2002 Farm Bill (Enacted on May 13, 2002). The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (HR 2646) includes various provisions affecting Food Distribution Programs, and many other programs affecting the Hispanic community.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. LULAC is the largest and oldest Hispanic organization in the United States. LULAC advances the economic condition, educational attainment, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nation-wide.
- B. USDA is a Federal agency of the United States that shares many of the interests of LULAC as they relate to the missions of USDA.
- C. USDA and LULAC share a strong interest in developing a partnership for the purpose of providing opportunities for Hispanic Americans in higher education pursuing academic degrees, study or research of interest to USDA.

D. In furtherance of these goals,

USDA shall:

- (1) Assign a Program Manager the responsibility of coordinating activities, programs and events with LULAC under this MOU.
- (2) Ensure that a Program Manager advises USDA Mission Areas and Agencies of this MOU, and enlist the support and active participation by USDA Mission Areas and Agencies in the implementation of this MOU.
- (3) Provide information to LULAC regarding program and service opportunities with USDA for the purpose of inviting participation and liaison activities, employment, services, and outreach.
- (4) Provide LULAC with information concerning partnership events, grant opportunities, student internships and available funding for research, development and other partnership opportunities in USDA.

LULAC shall:

- (1) Identify and appoint a Program Officer to serve as liaison to coordinate the implementation of this MOU.
- (2) Advise its internal and external affiliations and component offices of this MOU and enlist their participation in the implementation of this agreement.
- (3) Use its best efforts to promote the missions of USDA and programs and services opportunities with the USDA, through the affiliates of LULAC and its constituency groups.

(4) Assess, process, and administer referral services based on inquiries from Hispanic American communities in compliance with this MOU.

(5) Coordinate student activities and orientation programs hosted in USDA work-sites in support of LULAC Youth Leadership and Young Adults Programs and promote awareness in science, food safety, agricultural research, and other disciplines.

(6) Identify, coordinate, and assist with sponsorship services of new employees, student interns, or potential candidates from disadvantaged Hispanic American communities interested in programs and services in USDA.

(7) Provide administrative support, technical assistance, and community awareness resources to heighten the awareness of USDA missions and services.

V. COST AND IMPLEMENTATION

A. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate either USDA or LULAC to obligate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involved the transfer of funds, services, or property among the various agencies and offices of USDA and LULAC will require execution of separate agreements and will be contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of each such agreement must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations.

- B. This MOU is not intended to, and does not create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.
- C. This MOU in no way restricts the parties from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This MOU shall become effective on the date of signature and remain in effect unless amended by mutual written agreement. This agreement may be terminated at any time by any of the parties upon sixty (60) days notice to the other party. The following signatures are in witness thereof, and serve to execute the “Juntos Podemos” MOU between USDA and LULAC.

/S/

7/7/04

The Honorable Ann M. Veneman, Secretary
Department of Agriculture

Date

/S/

7/7/04

Mr. Hector M. Flores
National President
League of United Latin American Citizens

Date