National Spotlights
Background: The nation’s largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization; since 1968, UnidosUS has served the Hispanic community through its research, policy analysis, and state and national advocacy efforts.

How We’re Working Together: Since 2022, UnidosUS has used support from the Citi Foundation’s Strengthening Community Leadership Initiative to help improve its core infrastructure. Providing support to bolster the operations of the organization expands their capacity to support local affiliates and makes them more effective change agents.

“Thanks to the Citi Foundation’s investment, UnidosUS has been able to deepen our leadership capacity, expand digital services to support our Affiliate Engagement and program teams, and engage in a rigorous process to set our strategic direction. The future prosperity of our nation depends on a thriving Latino community, and these investments elevate the quality, reach, and efficacy of our efforts to address long-standing economic and social disparities.”

Sonia M. Pérez
Chief Operating Officer, UnidosUS
NAHREP

**Background:** Purpose-driven organization that is propelled by a passionate combination of entrepreneurial spirit, cultural heritage and the advocacy of its members; mission is to advance sustainable Hispanic homeownership.

**How We’re Working Together:** Citi has sponsored NAHREP both nationally and locally for over 15 years. We proudly participate in NAHREP’s national conference and serve on the NAHREP Corporate Board of Governors. Citi also sponsors local NAHREP chapters, speaking at events on critical topics to grow Hispanic homeownership and wealth because access to homeownership is critical to establishing financial assets and building generational wealth.

“By advocating for public policy that supports homeownership opportunities, and by educating the real estate professionals that serve Hispanic homebuyers, NAHREP has helped increase Hispanic homeownership and has improved the quality of life for thousands of Hispanic-American families.”

Gary Acosta
Co-Founder & CEO, NAHREP
Background: Certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) intermediary instrumental in driving private and public investment in credit unions.

How We’re Working Together: With grant support from the Citi Foundation’s Community Finance Innovation Fund, Inclusiv launched the New Majority Growth Initiative to deliver training and technical assistance to 50 financial cooperatives (or cooperativas) across Puerto Rico. Access to financial services is a critical building block for financial inclusion and ultimately economic mobility for individuals and households.

“Cooperativas are an integral part of Puerto Rico’s social and economic fabric and have provided affordable financial products and services to over one million member-owners in rural and working-class neighborhoods for more than a century. Despite this legacy, they have been traditionally excluded from the resources and external capital that is available to financial institutions in the U.S. mainland. Thanks to Citi and the Citi Foundation’s ongoing support, we can start leveling the playing field.”

Pablo DeFilippi
EVP, Inclusiv Network
**Background:** The oldest and largest Hispanic-owned investment bank in the U.S. supporting clients across investment banking and underwriting, municipal finance, wealth management and more.

**How We’re Working Together:** Dating back more than 20 years, Citi’s relationship has supported the firm across Treasury, debt and equity capital markets and sales and trading. Supporting diverse financial institutions is an important way we can create a more inclusive financial system.

“We are deeply committed to training the next generation of diverse finance professionals and over the years have developed comprehensive internship and mentorship programs for college students and entry-level employees. In the community, we provide financial and program support [to] over 100 charities across a range of missions including social support, access to education, financial literacy, and food insecurity.”

**Sam Ramirez Jr.**
Senior Managing Director, Ramirez & Co.  
President & CEO, Ramirez Asset Management
International Finance Bank

Background: A Miami-based community bank focused on the Hispanic community offering a variety of financial products for individuals, businesses, and foreign nationals including checking accounts, savings accounts and more. IFB holds a designation as an MDI and is one of the 30 Hispanic-led banks in the country. IFB is a Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender.

How We’re Working Together: This past year, we have collaborated with IFB on affordable housing deals through Citi Community Capital and multiple loan syndications, leading to greater economic opportunity for low-income communities.

“I had already known of Citi’s support for MDIs when they welcomed us to participate in the Citi ATM Community Network, and our relationship has only grown deeper since then. International Finance Bank has partnered with Citi’s Diverse Financial Institutions Group (DFIG) in certain lending transactions, and we also expanded our digital presence for new commercial opportunities. Working with the DFIG team has enabled us to better support our communities who rely on us for banking services.”

Sonia Canessa Gonzalez
EVP / Chief Financial Officer, IFB
Local Spotlights
Background: Non-profit that inspires Latino students to discover their potential and ignite their desire to embrace education and achieve success; mobilizes Latino professionals to serve as role models in educational programs in the communities where they live and work.

How We’re Working Together: Since 2015, Citi volunteers in San Antonio have been active in the HISPA Role Models program. Beginning in 2022, volunteers have also participated in HISPA-led outreach programs to middle school students in New York and New Jersey, where they provided insights on careers in banking and shared their professional journeys, helping inspire these students to dream big.

"Thanks to the support of Citi, HISPA can connect Latino role models with Latino youth at school, at company headquarters, and on university campuses. Sharing Latino stories, today and every day, is imperative for the future of our country."

Dr. Ivonne Díaz-Claisse
President & CEO, HISPA
**Background:** Increasing economic security for women and families in Southern Arizona through small business, career advancement, leadership, wellness and racial justice programs

**How We’re Working Together:** Earlier this year, Citi Tucson employees donated over 150 articles of clothing and accessories to Your Sister’s Closet, a YWCA program that provides professional/business casual clothing for all women with an emphasis on those who are unemployed, or homeless, completely free of charge, helping them take that next step in their journey with confidence.

“At the YWCA, we are on a mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. By walking alongside our Latina women and their families, with partners such as Citi, we aim to help build a future of dignity and self-advocacy – that is our vision.”

Magdalena Verdugo  
CEO, YWCA Southern Arizona
Hispanic Women’s League

**Background:** Helping improve the quality of life, assist in the personal and professional development and advocate for the concerns of the Hispanic woman in Buffalo, New York.

**How We’re Working Together:** Citi regularly supports la Liga by funding scholarships to help Hispanic women advance in their educational journeys – reinforcing the importance of creating more economic opportunity for women of color.

“By organizations like Citi funding scholarships that help the Latina woman achieve higher education, it allows the Hispanic Women’s League to help close the wealth gap amongst our Latino community by removing one of many barriers we face as a community.”

**Maria Cruz**
President, Hispanic Women’s League
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay

Background: Stands for the Hispanic and Latino communities of the Tampa Bay, FL area; vision is to connect businesses with the objective of facilitating new opportunities, strengthening business bonds with civic groups, and promoting domestic and international trade.

How We’re Working Together: Citi supports the Chamber across a number of their core initiatives and programs that are aimed at providing support to minority owned businesses – namely scholarship programs, business grants, and back-to-school supplies that help Tampa Bay residents get ahead.

“Citigroup has been a major catalyst to our commitment to the Vision of the Chamber. Through this partnership we have been able to connect more than three hundred companies this year.”

Mercedes Young
President, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay