



*Creating the Latino Student Success Coalition:
Accomplishments and Challenges*



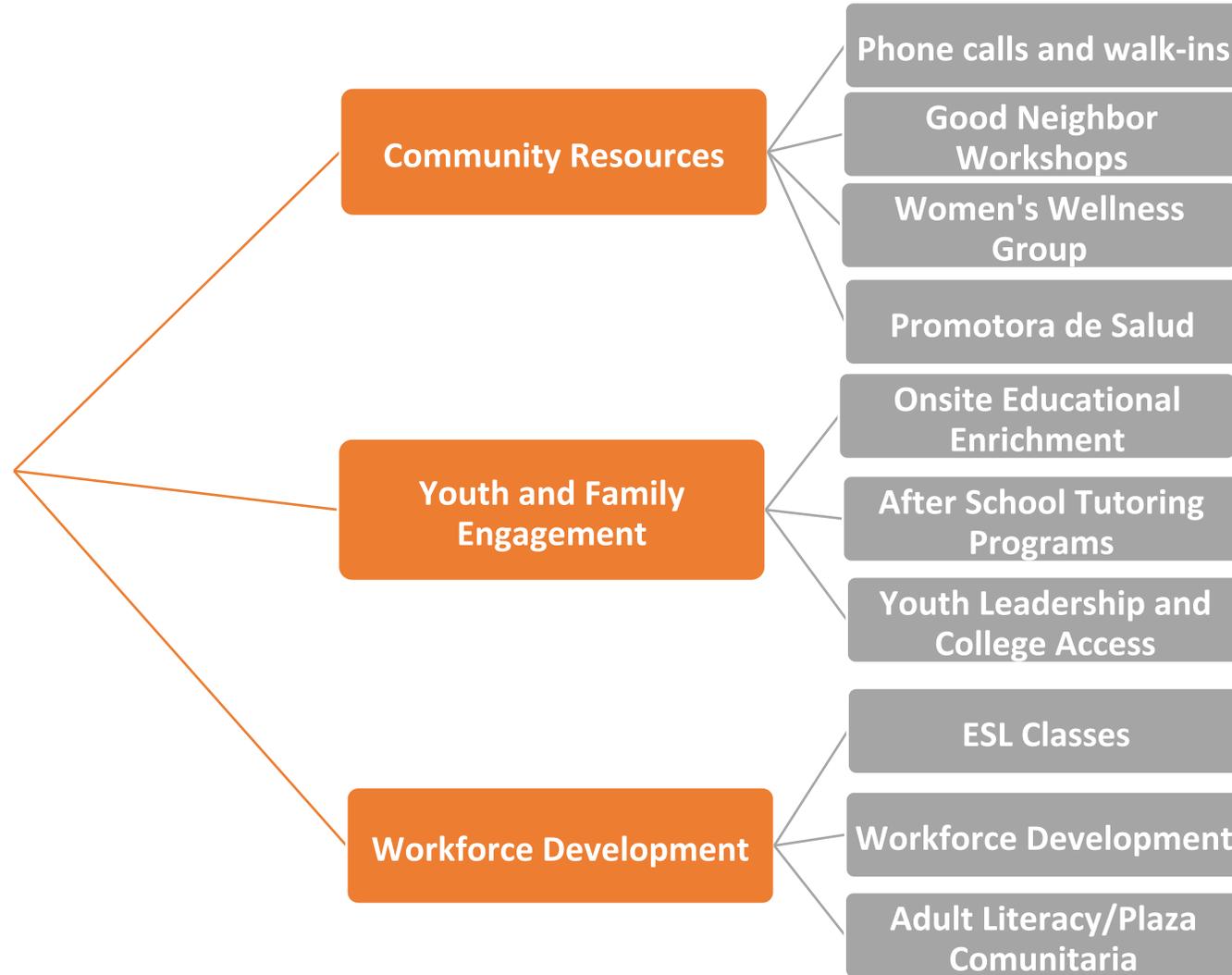
Centro Hispano Vision & Mission

Vision:

Every Latino and Latina culturally, educationally, and economically thriving.

Mission:

To connect, integrate and empower the Latino community through education and engagement; information and referral services; and community strengthening initiatives.



What role does advocacy play in our organization's mission and programs?

The Latino Student Success Coalition

- In July of 2017, Centro Hispano was awarded a Equity & Excellence Subgrant from Conexion Americas and the Tennessee Educational Equity Coalition with the proposal to create the Latino Student Success Coalition in Knox County.
- The group first met in August of 2017 and currently has over 100 members who have requested to be added to email updates or participated in Coalition activities.
- In addition to the Latino Student Success Coalition, special emphasis was placed on developing youth advocates through the Latino Youth Leadership Group
- Successfully reapplied for a Equity & Excellence subgrant for 2018-2019 year



The Latino Student Success Coalition (“LSSC”)

Mission:

The mission of the Latino Student Success Coalition is to develop the capacity of youth, educators, and community members to share resources and advocate for the educational success and life opportunities of Latino students in Knox county and surroundings areas.

Objectives:

1. To share resources, ideas, and information among educators, community members, and families.
2. To network and provide social and emotional support for each other.
3. To collaborate and align our efforts on behalf of Latino students. We are more influential and can have a greater impact if we work together.
4. To amplify the voices of Latino students and families on the local and state level.



A Few Highlights of Accomplishments:

2017-2018:

- Needs assessment conducted with surveys from educators and community members and focus groups with youth and parents
- Youth group members met with state legislators to advocate for tuition opportunity
- 1st annual Coalition-wide retreat with 65 community members and youth participating in identifying priorities and goals

2018-2019:

- Formation of steering committee to streamline decision-making process
- Began discussions with Knox County Schools to prepare for immigration action emergencies
- Youth group trip to Greensboro, North Carolina for Soy Un Lider Conference
- Produced and presented recommendations for Knox County Schools Board of Education 3-year strategic plan based on Needs Assessment data



Ongoing Challenges:

- Overcommitted and overstressed members
- Low response rates make decision-making difficult
- Encouraging the involvement of parents, particularly ones from lower SES background
- Communication with youth: “When Facebook is Obsolete”
- Negotiating Centro Hispano’s role
- Coalition of individuals vs. coalition of organizations?
- Limits on staff time and the demands of balancing advocacy and direct service programs



Coalition Building Activity