



California Latinas for Reproductive Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Justice for Young Families Policy Briefing Co-Sponsored by the California Latino Legislative Caucus and Senator Ricardo Lara

Sacramento, California (February 24, 2014) – California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ), the California Latino Legislative Caucus, and Senator Ricardo Lara will be holding a policy briefing, *Latin@s and Young Families: Shifting Perception and Claiming our Strengths*, February 27th, from 1:00-2:30PM in State Capitol Room 444. The policy briefing will include highlights from CLRJ's Justice for Young Families (J4YF) [issue brief series](#) as well as the voices of young parent leaders from Bell Gardens High School's Pregnancy Minor Program, who will speak about both their personal challenges and successes as young parents.

J4YF is a CLRJ long-term policy initiative that promotes the health, equity, opportunity and dignity of young families. Informed by the real-life experiences of young parents and those who serve them, J4YF disrupts the punitive narrative that holds up young parents as symbols of failure, perpetuating dangerous stereotypes that are especially harmful to youth of color and Latino youth in particular. J4YF raises the most pressing needs for young mothers and fathers and seeks to change how young families are perceived and treated. This is especially important in California, where according to Governor Jerry Brown's most recent [state budget](#), the Latino population is projected to surpass whites in March 2014, becoming the largest single ethnic group in the state.

J4YF challenges the single-issue prevention focus of current youth sexuality programs by taking into account the social conditions that affect the lives of Latino youth. Young parents need recognition and acceptance as families, access to opportunities, including educational and/or vocational support, access to childcare, and economic opportunities. Investing in the success of young families will sow the seeds for the success of future generations in California.

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About California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ)

[CLRJ](#) is a statewide organization committed to honoring the experiences of Latinas to uphold our dignity, our bodies, sexuality, and families. We build Latinas' power and

cultivate leadership through community education, policy advocacy, and community-informed research to achieve Reproductive Justice.

Learn more about California Latinas for Reproductive Justice at www.californialatinas.org

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For more on Justice for Young Families (J4YF) visit:

<http://www.californialatinas.org/our-work/justice-for-young-families-initiative/>

J4YF Issue Brief I: Supporting Latina/o Youth: Strengthening Latina/o Young Families and Communities

J4YF Issue Brief II: Sin Vergüenza, No Shame: Young Parents Share Their Stories, Challenges, and Determination

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