

## 2025 Federal Legislative Agenda for Laredo

### *Public Health & Human Services*

- **Health Equity Initiatives:**
  - Expand funding for healthcare infrastructure and mobile clinics to address underserved populations, particularly in border regions.
  - Advocate for extending federally capped out-of-pocket healthcare costs to non-Medicare populations.
- **Behavioral and Mental Health Support:**
  - Increase federal support for mental health programs tailored for first responders and vulnerable populations.

### *Public Safety and Border Security*

- **Enhanced Border Security:**
  - Advocate for increased funding for border surveillance technologies, physical barriers, and staffing at key entry points, aligning with national security priorities.
  - Request support for expedited customs clearance systems to balance trade and security needs.
- **Community and Law Enforcement Support:**
  - Seek federal grants for community safety initiatives and gang violence reduction programs.
  - Advocate for funding to enhance cooperation between local and federal law enforcement in combating trafficking and cross-border crime.
- **Emergency Management and Preparedness**
  - Advocate for increased federal funding and resources to strengthen local emergency management capabilities including disaster preparedness, response and recovery programs.

### *Trade and Economic Development*

- **Modernizing Port Laredo:**
  - Secure funding to upgrade trade infrastructure to support adjustments due to potential tariffs and trade policies.

- Promote investments in logistics and export industries to solidify Laredo's status as a trade hub.
- **Small Business and Manufacturing Growth:**
  - Advocate for tax incentives to support local businesses and domestic manufacturing expansions aligned with federal priorities on reducing foreign import reliance.

### ***Infrastructure Investment***

- **Transportation and Connectivity:**
  - Request funding for upgrades to highways and bridges to accommodate growing trade-related traffic.
  - Seek investment in airport and rail expansions to improve regional and national connectivity.
- **Border Trade Infrastructure:**
  - Include funding for advanced processing systems to streamline cargo flow and ensure competitive trade operations at border facilities.
- **Comprehensive Regional Planning:**
  - Propose funding for regional planning initiatives that integrate transportation, housing, and sustainability, ensuring efficient use of resources and alignment with long-term development goals.
- **Community Development and Infrastructure Funding:**
  - Advocate for the protection and expansion of federal funding for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and similar programs that support critical infrastructure and are important in fostering community growth in underserved areas.

### ***Climate and Environmental Resiliency***

- **Air Quality and Emissions Management:**
  - Expand air monitoring initiatives to address emissions from increased trade activity.
  - Seek funding for green infrastructure to mitigate heat and improve urban climate resilience.
- **Urban Heat Resilience Programs:**

- Advocate for federal grants to support integrated urban cooling solutions, including reflective pavements, green roofs, and shaded pedestrian pathways.
- **Advanced Air Quality Technology Deployment:**
  - Seek joint federal-state funding to deploy advanced air quality monitoring and emissions control technology, particularly near trade and industrial hubs.

### ***Economic Competitiveness and Workforce Development***

- **Domestic Workforce Training:**
  - Advocate for federal funding for vocational training programs in logistics, manufacturing, and technology sectors.
- **Strengthening Trade Policies:**
  - Position Laredo as a critical beneficiary of reciprocal trade agreements by ensuring modern, efficient trade infrastructure and workforce readiness.
- **Veteran Support and Service Expansion**
  - Advocate for increased federal funding and program expansion to enhance veteran healthcare, housing, workforce training, and mental health services in Laredo and other underserved areas.