



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR
LATINO
COMMUNITY
ASSET
BUILDERS

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Branches Selected by NALCAB for COVID-19 Emergency Response Funding

*Funds part of \$1 million national effort to assist hard hit
Latino and immigrant communities supported by JPMorgan Chase*

August 13, 2020 - Miami, FL – In response to the economic crisis that has resulted from the coronavirus pandemic, NALCAB – The National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders awarded Branches a \$15,000 grant for its work focused on financial wellness including financial coaching and micro-business services. Branches is a local nonprofit organization serving Miami-Dade County and provides life-changing opportunities to help working families and their children break the cycle of generational poverty.

Branches was selected through a competitive process based on its track record of service, financial stewardship and positive impact on the local community they serve. Since the COVID-19 Pandemic hit the Miami community, Branches has been working tirelessly to serve children and families. Branches ramped up its meal service and to date has provided over 26,000 grab-and-go meals for children and families. Within 24 hours of the schools closing, Branches' Grow & Climb student services team began connecting with their children, youth and families via phone calls, text messages and Zoom meetings. The Achieve team is providing financial wellness services through Zoom meetings and phone calls, providing financial coaching, small business and emergency assistance. The Achieve staff has to date provided over 4,000 virtual meetings with participants, and has provided Business Coaching sessions to 904 small businesses, completing dozens of loan applications. With VITA free tax prep sites closed, Branches launched a 'Walk-Up' Window tax prep service and was one of the few VITA sites to reopen in the State of Florida.

"Almost 60% of families in our community are struggling to make ends meet, and now due to the COVID-19 pandemic, even more individuals will find themselves in desperate situations." says Brent McLaughlin, Executive Director of Branches. "Branches serves to create opportunities for these children and families to break the cycle of poverty and succeed in school, become more financially stable, and attain a higher quality of life. With generous support from individuals, churches and corporate partners, we are making an impact for thousands of our neighbors in need."

The JPMorgan Chase funding is part of a larger national effort by NALCAB to mobilize nearly \$6.4 million in grants and low-cost debt to over 100 Latino-serving nonprofit organizations in 23 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Learn more about that effort [HERE](#).

For more information on Branches' programs and initiatives, please contact Isabelle Pike at 305-206-5689 or ipike@branchesfl.org

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About [Branches](#)

For over 45 years, Branches has made a positive impact in the community by delivering on its mission to serve, educate and inspire people through student, family and financial stability services. Branches provides long-term, holistic services for motivated individuals and families. We help people grow deeper and climb higher in life by building a foundation through education so they can achieve their goals and fulfill their potential. For more information about Branches, please contact Isabelle Pike at 305-442-8306 x1002 or ipike@branchesfl.org or visit Branches at www.branchesfl.org

About [NALCAB](#)

NALCAB - National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders - is the hub of a national network of more than 120 mission-driven organizations in 40 states, DC and Puerto Rico that serve ethnically diverse Latino communities across the US. Members of the NALCAB Network invest in their communities by building affordable housing, addressing gentrification, supporting small business growth, and providing financial counseling on issues such as credit building and home ownership. Our mission is to strengthen the economy by advancing economic mobility in Latino communities. The NALCAB Network serves hundreds of thousands of low and moderate-income people, the vast majority of whom are immigrants or the children of immigrants.

