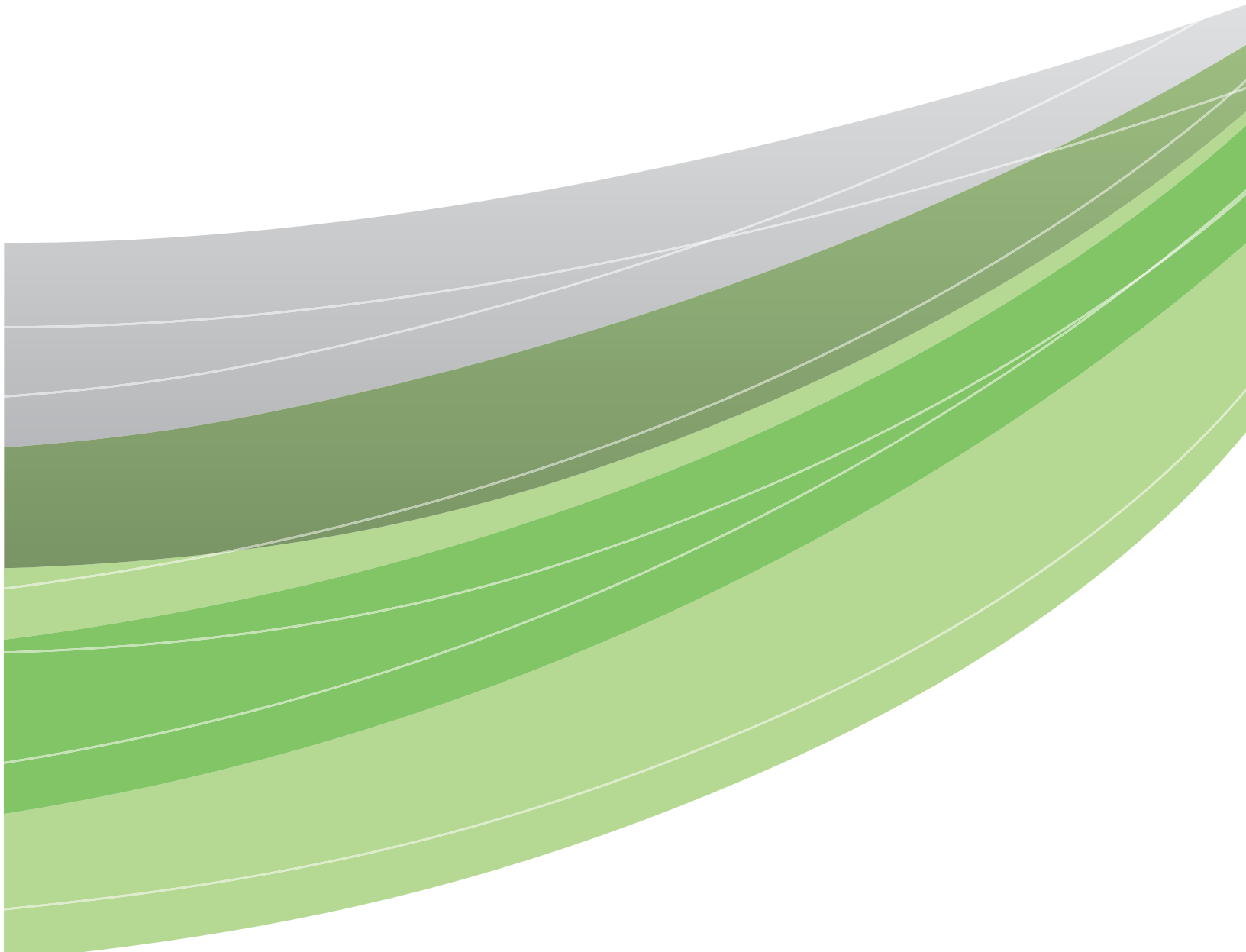


To build the power, influence,  
and leadership of the Latino  
community through collective  
action to transform public policies  
that ensure the well-being of our  
community and society as a whole



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

The Latino Policy Forum is the only organization in the Chicago area that facilitates the involvement of Latinos at all levels of public decision-making. The Forum strives to improve education outcomes, advocate for affordable housing, promote just immigration policies, and engage diverse sectors of the community. It does this by conducting analysis to inform, influence and lead, all with an understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future.

Mission: To build the power, influence, and leadership of the Latino community through collective action to transform public policies that ensure the well-being of the community and society as a whole

Vision: The Latino Policy Forum envisions societal prosperity, unity, and equity in the nation and in the global community



PHOTO © JERRY ATTERE

Dear Friends,



PHOTO © OLGA LOPEZ

In June 2011, the Latino Policy Forum held its first End-of-Session Policy Update, a standing-room-only community summit designed for dialog around a variety of issues. Ironically, this observation of the *end* of Illinois legislative session marked the *beginning* of a new era for the Forum and the community that it serves: We have come of age.

Having gone from marching in the streets to sitting at the table in Springfield, the Latino community has matured politically. We are red and blue and every shade in between, as diverse in our political ideologies as the countries we represent. And the Latino Policy Forum has evolved right along with the community that it serves, embracing diversity while advocating for collaboration, for *Acuerdo* in our education, housing, immigration and civic engagement work to create a strong shared future for us all.

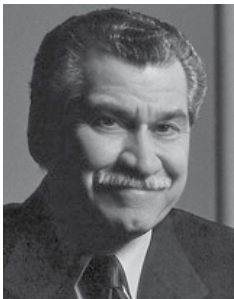
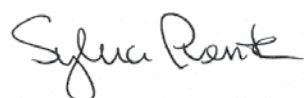


PHOTO © SANDRO

The room that day was packed with more than 300 engaged leaders, advocates and students. While the event was primarily a Latino-focused legislative update, we were pleased to see that diverse allies from the African American, Asian American and White communities were present. The Latino agenda has become a shared agenda.

But fear—spurred by shifting demographics and economic uncertainty—threatens to chip away at these hard-fought victories in unity. As November 2012 approaches, election rhetoric increasingly focuses on the ills of our broken immigration policy and the scapegoating of our immigrant and Latino communities, splintering fragile alliances and dividing our country into hardened partisan factions.

As a society it is essential that we embrace Latino affairs as a critical part of our shared future. And as Latinos, it is essential that we embrace diversity in our work as a catalyst for progress. Together, we're moving *íadelante!*



Sylvia Puente  
Executive Director  
Latino Policy Forum



Hipolito "Paul" Roldan  
President, Board of Directors  
Latino Policy Forum

## BUILDING ACUERDOS IN THE LATINO COMMUNITY

An *Acuerdo* is the Latino Policy Forum's instrument for building the policy-making and advocacy capacity of the Latino community. (*Acuerdo* is a Spanish word meaning mutual understanding, agreement, and accord.) An *Acuerdo* engages diverse sectors of the community around a specific issue. The Latino Policy Forum currently staffs three *Acuerdos*—in Housing, Early Childhood Education, and Immigration—and is co-convenor of another collaborative Latino-lead group, the 48-member Illinois Latino Agenda. In total, the Forum unites the collective leadership and influence of over 100 Latino-serving organizations.

These collaborative efforts add value by:

- Developing an educated, issue-specific Latino voice;
- Building strong leaders who promote a common agenda;
- Advancing Latino access and inclusion;
- Generating positive engagement with the non-Latino community; and
- Making recommendations that improve the quality of life for all.

Collaboration is a cornerstone of the Latino Policy Forum's work. Learn more about how Latino collaboration is tackling challenges in our communities in the following pages.

## EDUCATION INITIATIVES



PHOTO © JAYDUNN.COM - HOY NEWSPAPER

<sup>1</sup> Home Page: White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. (n.d.) *Improving educational opportunities and outcomes for Latino students*. Retrieved April 24, 2012, from <http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/list/hispanic-initiative/index.html>

Our future global competitiveness rests on the successful human capital investment in youth—particularly in Latino youth, who represent nearly one in every five students in Illinois schools. But Latino students continue to be challenged with some of the lowest education achievement levels in our country: As gaps exist before they even set foot in kindergarten, it is no surprise that just half of these students earn their high school diploma on time, and only 13 percent have bachelor's degrees.<sup>1</sup>

The Latino Policy Forum addresses education-related challenges through its 11-member Early Childhood Education *Acuerdo*, which has set a collective advocacy agenda to increase Latino students' access to quality early childhood education. The Forum remains committed to promoting culturally-relevant parent education programming with its *Abriendo Puertas* program, delivered to hundreds of Chicago-area parents. And 2011 saw the formal launch of the Latino Policy Forum's expanded K-12 education agenda, building on the success of its early education work.

"The information and support provided by the Forum initiates a chain of action that trickles down from person to person. This is the type of information that inspires action and change."

– Mario F. Garcia, Executive Director, Onward Neighborhood House

"Abriendo Puertas...has opened my eyes, mind and heart to becoming a better parent. I learned by stepping back and putting myself in my little girl's shoes and to see the world through her eyes. Our children are what we put into them."

– *Abriendo Puertas* participant

## IMMIGRATION INITIATIVES



PHOTO © LATINO POLICY FORUM

With federal immigration reform stalled in a bitterly divided Congress, individual states have taken the business of immigration legislation into their own hands, and with dramatically different results: The draconian laws passed in Arizona, Alabama, and Georgia contrast dramatically with the more progressive Illinois, which saw the passage of pro-immigrant reforms in 2011. With 2012 elections in sight, immigration remains a core issue for many voters Latino voters whose loved ones await decisive action.

The Latino Policy Forum promotes a thoughtful approach to immigration reform and local immigrant integration through the leadership of its eight-member *Immigration Acuerdo*. Working to strengthen alliances and networks with diverse pro-immigrant groups, the Forum remains a reliable source of timely analysis on rapidly-changing immigration policy, and provides information and leadership development to strengthen the immigrant network.

“As a member of the Forum’s *Immigration Acuerdo*, Enlace has engaged and educated its residents on the issues such as the DREAM Act and Comprehensive Immigration Reform.”

– *Michael D. Rodríguez, Executive Director, Enlace Chicago*

“Nuestra participación en el Acuerdo...ha sido una gran oportunidad para que las madres líderes incrementen su capacidad y entendimiento de reuniones comunitarias...ellas se han convertido en la voz de su comunidad.”

– *Maria D. Velazquez, Directora Ejecutiva, Telpochcalli Community Education Project*

## HOUSING INITIATIVES



PHOTO © OLGA LOPEZ

<sup>1</sup> Latino Policy Forum analysis of Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data

<sup>2</sup> ComplianceTech analysis of Federal Reserve Data, as cited in <http://www.suntimes.com/3803378-417/lending-toblacks-hispanics-plummets-during-housing-crisis.html>

<sup>3</sup> Latino Policy Forum analysis of US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) data..

Homeownership remains part of the American Dream for Latino families, but is increasingly a dream deferred: While the number of foreclosure filings in predominately-Latino Chicago wards and suburbs dipped in 2011, loan refinancing rejection rates for local Latinos were at a stubborn 32 percent.<sup>1</sup> Nationally, the value of new loans in Latino communities dropped an estimated 63 percent.<sup>2</sup> And discrimination continues to limit housing choice for Latino renters, with race-related complaints of fair housing law violations accounting for 42 percent of the basis for complaints filed in Illinois.<sup>3</sup>

The Forum engages the leadership of its 13-member Housing *Acuerdo* to create a policy agenda that ensures Latino families' access to quality, affordable housing. The Forum works on various housing issues —bringing attention to the mortgage foreclosure crisis, the importance of housing education, increased access to affordable housing, and ensuring that homeless services are offered in Latino communities—through analysis and fact sheets and educates consumers, owners and service providers on fair housing laws through events and workshops.

"As a new member of the Housing *Acuerdo*, Erie has been able to create great partnerships allowing us to extend our reach into the areas of education, outreach, and advocacy in the housing arena, an issue that has become critical to the Latino community given today's foreclosure crisis."

– *Celena Roldan, Executive Director, Erie Neighborhood House*

"Being a member of the Housing *Acuerdo* has helped us to stay informed on housing issues that affect the Latino community at large. In addition, it has offered us the opportunity to connect on an ongoing basis with practitioners in the field, allowing us to conduct grounded research and, ultimately, influence public policy."

– *Ivis Garcia Zambrana, Research Assistant, Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement*

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES



PHOTO © JERRY ATTERE

Latino civic participation is steadily increasing along with its population numbers. 2011 saw an unprecedented collaboration among the diverse member organizations of the *Illinois Latino Agenda*, which worked in coalition of African-American and Asian-American partners to influence the creation of stronger majority-minority legislative districts, including the region's first Latino-majority suburban district. However, Illinois' continued fiscal woes threaten the vitality of Latino-serving nonprofits that depend on state funding. Faced with a growing demand from a rapidly-growing

population, these organizations are forced to do more with less.

The Latino Policy Forum leverages the collective leadership of the Latino community by co-convening the *Illinois Latino Agenda*. The Forum promotes Latino leadership through its Illinois Latino Nonprofit Leadership Academy, convened for the third year in 2011, and by bolstering Latino participation in state-level decision-making with the placement of Latino advocates on committees and councils.

"The Latino Policy Forum was a critical voice in an exceptional year. With the State of Illinois in unprecedented debt, our community faces massive cuts in services and slow payments from the state which together threatened the very survival of Latino organizations."

- Juan Salgado, President and CEO, Instituto del Progreso Latino

"It has been through the initiatives, information, and work that the Latino Policy Forum has put forth [on behalf of YSP] that our organization, though small, has become more visible to the media, to the policy makers, or to the community at large."

- Kenny Martin-Ocasio, Executive Director & CEO, Youth Service Project



## 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### INFORM

- ◆ Increased presence of Latino voice in mainstream media through the placement of nearly 200 print articles and broadcast segments in mainstream and community news outlets.
- ◆ Initiated a new series of SOL (Statistics on Latinos) policy briefs, that combine data with insightful analysis to inform elected officials, journalists, and the general public about issue that are salient to Latino children and families.
- ◆ Provide credible, consistent information on the ever-changing landscape of immigration policy, helping immigrant communities and advocacy groups better understand federal policy changes through regular bilingual communications and analysis.
- ◆ Empowered more than 1,600 community members with information on fair housing laws, foreclosure, fair lending, and the Chicago Residential Landlord Tenant Ordinance through a phone referral service, outreach and training.

### INFLUENCE

- ◆ Championed issues relevant to Latino children and families by testifying at 17 state and local hearings focused on budget matters, redistricting and government administration.
- ◆ Connected Latino-serving early childhood education providers with funding sources by advising more than a dozen providers that applied for the state-administered early childhood construction program.
- ◆ Successfully advocated for the creation of the region's first suburban Latino majority districts during state-level redistricting efforts, while conducting analysis and providing testimony on the possibility of creating 13 districts with a 65-plus percent Latino population.
- ◆ Educated Latino leaders and conducted analysis on TABOR, potentially restrictive legislation

that would limit government spending and negatively affect all communities.

- ◆ Established relationships with key legislative leaders in Springfield via capitol visits, testimony and meetings on redistricting, early childhood education and other issues.
- ◆ Addressed systems change in City of Chicago early education programs via participation in the Mayor's task force and by placing nine Latino advocates on sub-committees.

### LEAD

- ◆ Encouraged sustainable leadership in Latino-led, Latino-serving organizations by convening the third cohort of the Illinois Latino Nonprofit Leadership Academy, engaging executive-level and emerging leadership in personal, professional and organizational development.
- ◆ Convened 30 Latino-serving community organizations as part of *Acuerdo* work groups, developing advocacy priorities around housing, immigration and early childhood education.
- ◆ Assemble nearly 40 education advocates, academics, business leadership, school leadership, teachers, and parents in a trailblazing education advisory committee, designed to advance collective dialogues on Latino K-12 challenges in the region.
- ◆ Bolstered Latino participation in State-level decision-making through appointments of Latino Policy Forum staff to the Early Learning Council, its Space Capacity Committee, and the Illinois Housing Development Authority's (IHDA's) Affordable Housing Trust Fund Advisory Commission and Task Force Foreclosure Working Group.
- ◆ Equipped 200 parents from 17 organizations with leadership skills via the *Abriendo Puertas* program, designed to help parents build solid academic foundations for their children.

The Latino Policy Forum thanks the following individuals and organizations for their generous support of our work.

**\$100,000 +**

The Chicago Community Trust  
The Joyce Foundation  
The Robert R. McCormick Foundation

**\$10,000 - \$99,999**

Allstate Insurance Company  
Alphawood Foundation  
Bank of America  
Blue Foundation  
ComEd  
City of Chicago - Department of  
Housing and Economic Development  
Evanston Community Foundation  
Field Foundation of Illinois  
Grand Victoria Foundation  
Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)  
The Allstate Foundation  
The Boeing Company  
The Harris Family Foundation  
The Irving Harris Foundation  
The Ounce of Prevention Fund  
University of California, Berkeley  
Woods Fund of Chicago

**\$9,999 - \$1,000**

ABC7 Chicago  
Azteca Foods, Inc.  
Bruce and Diana Rauner  
El Valor  
Franczek Radelet  
Healthcare Alternative Systems, Inc.  
Hispanic Housing Development Corporation  
Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym Ltd.  
IL Campaign for Political Reform  
Instituto del Progreso Latino  
Jewel-Osco  
MacNeal Hospital  
McCormick Foundation  
Midwest Generation EME, LLC  
Pritzker Children's Initiative  
Rush University Medical Center  
State Farm Insurance  
The Resurrection Project  
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation  
Voices for Illinois Children  
Walgreens

**Up to \$999**

Carmen Velásquez  
Dale Ginsburg  
Don McNeil  
Harriette Herrera  
Hipolito 'Paul' Roldan  
Hodes Family Foundation  
Ioan Pop  
Jaime Garcia  
Lew and Marge Collens  
Maria C. Bechily  
Maricela Garcia  
Martin Gradman  
Mona Noriega  
Paula Wolff  
Polk Bros Foundation  
Prado & Renteria CPAs  
Sol Flores

**In-Kind Support**

Chicago Latino Network  
Crain's Chicago Business  
Hoy Chicago

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011

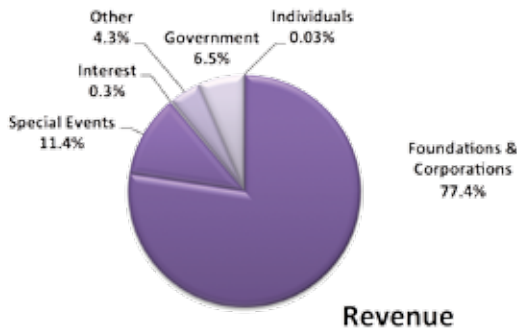
### ASSETS

Cash/Cash Equivalents	\$560,409
Grants Receivable	\$ 38,123
Other Receivable	\$ 35,000
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 1,715
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$635,247</b>
Certificate of deposit	\$ 32,146
Property and equipment*	\$ 13,219
Security deposits	\$ 11,980
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$692,592</b>

### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

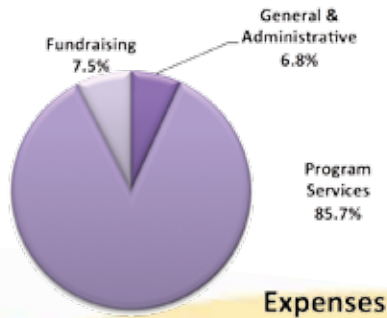
Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	\$ 34,316
Accrued Expenses	\$ 9,415
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 43,731</b>
Deferred Rent	\$ 24,870
Net Assets:	
Unrestricted	\$ 351,756
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 272,235
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 623,991</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$692,592</b>

\*At cost, less accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$92,391



### REVENUE

Individuals	\$ 300
Foundations & Corporations	\$ 762,275
Government	\$ 63,934
Special Events	\$ 113,042
Interest	\$ 2,686
Other	\$ 43,076
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 985,313</b>



### EXPENSES

Program Services	\$ 914,489
Management & General	\$ 98,153
Fundraising	\$ 49,282
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,061,924</b>

## 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

### Board of Directors

#### Executive Committee

**President:** Hipolito (Paul) Roldan, *Hispanic Housing Development Corporation*

**Vice President:** Sol A. Flores, *La Casa Norte*

**Secretary:** John Betancur, *University of Illinois at Chicago*

**Treasurer:** Maricela Garcia, *National Council of La Raza*

#### Board Members

Vince Casillas, *Casillas Strategy Group*

Filemon S. Cerda, *Research Consultant*

Luis Gutiérrez, *Latinos Progresando*

Guacolda Reyes, *The Resurrection Project*

Ricardo M. Tostado, *AT&T Communications Midwest*

### Latino Policy Forum Staff

Sylvia Puente, *Executive Director*

Isabel Anadon, *Policy Analyst*

Gabriela Arias, *Administrative Coordinator*

Barbara Buell, *Consultant*

Ernesto de la Torre, *Accountant*

Juliana Gonzalez-Crussi, *Policy Analyst & Housing Outreach Coordinator*

Reyna P. Hernandez, *Research & Policy Associate*

Liliana Matin, *Policy Analyst & Illinois Early Childhood Fellow*

Sara McElmurry, *Communications Manager*

Mary Beth LeMay, *Office & Development Manager*

Martin V. Torres, *Policy Analyst*

Christine Tran, *Policy Analyst & Illinois Early Childhood Fellow*

Rebecca Vonderlack-Navarro, *Parent Engagement Coordinator*

### LATINO POLICY FORUM

180 North Michigan Avenue

Suite 1250

Chicago, Illinois 60601

312-376-1766 (phone)

312-376-1760 (fax)

[www.latinopolicyforum.org](http://www.latinopolicyforum.org)

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