

Latino Policy Forum COVID-19 Work Summary

The Forum is responding to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on the Latino community in Illinois through the following analyses, advocacy, information, and outreach measures.

ANALYSIS: The Forum is applying its core-competency capabilities in analysis to all COVID-19-related topics, including:

- Analyzing federal stimulus proposals, including **the CARES Act, the HEROES Act, HEALS Act, and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act**, to determine their impact on Latinos
- Commissioning the highly credentialed survey group Latino Decisions to sample Illinois for data on the effects of COVID-19 on Latinos, which found that as of May 16, **62 percent of Latino households in Illinois had suffered job loss, loss of family-business income, or pay cuts.**
- Analyzing philanthropic and other **major funding programs** for COVID-19, determining that 21 percent of grant awards (\$5.1M) have gone to Latino-led and predominantly Latino-serving organizations
- Developing proposals for **housing and basic human-needs resources** to state government
- [Creating preliminary recommendations](#) informed by national literature and a convening of education stakeholders to support linguistically and culturally diverse students during remote learning in a time of COVID-19

ADVOCACY: The Forum is using its influential voice to advocate for equitable support to all communities that are most vulnerable to COVID-19, including:

- Advocating for equitable allocation of resources with philanthropic, state, Chicago, and Cook County leaders, ensuring that an estimated **\$5.1M from the Chicago COVID fund and an estimated \$2.5M from the State COVID fund** have served those in need in the Latinx community
- Serving on the **Emergency Assistance for Illinois Families Coalition**, advocating for a state appropriation of emergency cash assistance program, allocating over \$60M to IDHS
- Providing recommendations to ensure inclusion of Latino communities in the City's plan, including undocumented entrepreneurs and cash-economy workers, as part of the **Mayor's taskforce on economic recovery**
- Supporting passage of the **Illinois COVID-19 and Economic Recovery Emergency Renter and Homeowner Protection Act, which awarded nearly \$400M in financial relief** for residential renters, homeowners, and small landlords
- Advocating with **IDHA** to provide other funding options to mixed-status families or other families who did not receive state or federal rental relief

- Meeting with the **Governor's and Mayor's office and Cook County Presidents** to formally request better health protections for Latino communities given disproportionate impact of COVID on them
- Formally requesting that the **CDC** be invited to Illinois to assess and respond to the crisis
- Serving on **IllinoisUnidos**, a coalition consisting of elected officials, health professionals, and community leaders to develop and implement strategies to address disproportionate impact of COVID on communities of color
- Participating in COVID 19 City of Chicago Recovery Taskforce

INFORMATION: The Forum is updating critical state data that exposes COVID-19's disproportionate impact on Latinos, particularly statistics showing that **11 of the 15 zip codes/geographic locales with the highest per-100,000 case rates are majority Latino, and that the Latino per-100,000 case rate exceeds that of all other racial-ethnic groups.** This data is being disseminated via:

- The Forum website and **COVID resource page**, social media, and IllinoisUnidos website
- **Webinars** and other online conferences
- Over 12 media appearances in leading outlets **ABC, WGN, Telemundo, and Univision**
- Op-eds published in leading publications, such as **Crain's Chicago Business**, and press releases for IllinoisUnidos
- Organizing and facilitating ongoing meetings (seven to date) with all **Acuerdo members** to inform and take pulse of issues facing community leaders
- Over 10 virtual events including webinars in English and Spanish to provide updates and guidance related to "**public charge**" issues

OUTREACH and ASSISTANCE: Through existing relationships throughout the Latino community, the Forum is reaching out to all Latino entities to ensure they are informed and supported by:

- Reaching out to **Acuerdo** network of over 130 organizations and expanding outreach efforts to the **Mexican Consulate, Home Town Clubs, and the 20 volunteer-led organizations of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)**
- Obtaining and developing processes to ensure smooth disbursement of an estimated **\$575,000 in economic assistance to organizations that will identify individuals in need**
- Working with Deputy Governor Sol Flores to assist in setting up **mobile testing sites** for Latino-majority communities and neighborhoods with high COVID-19 rates
- Working with the **Greater Chicago Food Depository** to increase access to food pantries among Latino communities in need across the state