



STATISTICS ON LATINOS
BY LATINO POLICY FORUM



PHOTOS: OLGA LOPEZ

Latino Policy Forum 10th Anniversary

MULTICULTURAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

IMPACT STATEMENT

The Multicultural Leadership Academy equips Latino and African American leaders committed to social justice with tools to strengthen their communities, manage thriving organizations, and work in strategic alliance with one another and with other coalitions to achieve larger objectives.

GOAL

- To nurture a space where Latino and African American leaders can develop their skills and enhance their effectiveness as agents of social change
- To build bridges between Latinos and African Americans that promote opportunities for collaboration
- To leverage the collective power of Latino and African American leadership

CREATING EQUITY THROUGH LEADERSHIP

The Latino Policy Forum has a long history of promoting policies that have a positive impact on Latinos and other minorities in metro Chicago. Over the past 8 years, the Forum has run a leadership academy training, more than 200 civic leaders representing about 90 organizations from across the state.

The Multicultural Leadership Academy (formerly the Latino Leadership Academy) was created to address a clear absence of Latino leadership. This sad reality was even more troubling because Latinos constitute the largest minority in Illinois – growing more than 40 percent since 2000.

Launched in 2009, the Academy set out to reduce the barriers faced by Latinos when they sought leadership opportunities. The idea was to dedicate resources and expertise to building the capacity of Latino organizations by training and empowering their leaders. A well-prepared staff would clearly build robust nonprofit agencies and strengthen their communities.

For six years, the Academy was successful in accomplishing its goal to create networks of well-trained Latino leaders who, today, still actively pursue policy issues affecting their constituents.

BUILDING POWER THROUGH DELIBERATE COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND ACTION

In 2015, the Forum revisited the Academy's objectives and after consulting with many members of the community, recognized the need to broaden the scope of its mission and those it trained. Purpose, intent, and objectives were deliberately revised to include leaders from the African American community with the goal to leverage power and build sustainable relationships between communities of color, which often live and work in isolation of one another.

The revised Academy goals include:

- To increase cross-cultural understanding and collaboration among the participants to address pressing social issues
- To build networks of Latino and African American leaders to strengthen their organizations and communities.

Building trust is a fundamental element of any leadership program's success. The Academy presents opportunities to create paradigm shifts that allow Latinos and African Americans to share concerns, collaborate, and generate mutually beneficial outcomes.

The Academy also creates a safe place to acknowledge inequalities, share common concerns, and celebrate cultural differences. Participants, who are sponsored by their employer-organizations, include all levels of internal management, board members, and volunteers. They engage in action-learning projects and collaborate on cross-cultural

teams. Working together leads them to inspired partnerships for political, social justice, and community impact.

Since 2015, the Academy has provided training to more than 200 representatives from 92 organizations. Feedback from participants ranges from Good to Excellent 92 percent of the time.

Saeed Richardson, (MLA '18) stated that,

“work together ... is necessary for significant, lasting change.”

ONWARD AND UPWARDS

The Forum will continue its deliberate purpose of bringing together leaders from African American and Latino communities to build trust, cultivate strategic alliances, and together work for justice.

SELECTED SUCCESS STORIES OF ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS

- Receipt of Community Service award
- Promotion within agency to Executive Director position
- Receipt of large capital investment grant for community organization
- Improved community relations
- Strengthened advocacy and coalition building skills
- Named White House Champion of Change
- Countless partnerships

ABOUT SOL

SOL is a series of periodic policy briefs that combines data with insightful analysis from the Latino Policy Forum. The series will provide a unique snapshot of the growth, influence and challenges of the local Latino community, for use by community leaders, urban planners, elected officials, journalists, and anyone interested in building a shared future for all of Illinois.

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LATINO POLICY FORUM LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Alianza Americas	El Hogar del Niño	National Museum of Mexican Art
Austin Coming Together	ElevArte Community Studio	Network for College Success at the University of Chicago
BBF Family Services	Enlace Chicago	Northern Alliance for Immigrants
Big Shoulders Fund	Erie Elementary Charter School	Northwest Side Housing Center
Blocks Together	Erie Neighborhood House	Onward Neighborhood House
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council	Evanston Coalition for Latino Resources	Our Lady of Tepeyac Elementary School
Cambiando Vidas/Access Living	Family Focus, Englewood	P.A.S.O./West Suburban Action Project
Casa Central	Family Focus, Inc.	Project VIDA, Inc.
Casa Guanajuato, Quad Cities	Family Shelter Services	Projecto Pa'Lante, Northeastern Illinois University
Center for Changing Lives	Farmworker Advocacy Project	Puerto Rican Arts Alliance
Centro de Información	Growing Power, Inc.	R.A.G.E. (Resident Association of Greater Englewood)
Centro de Trabajadores Unidos: Immigrant Workers Project	Grupo SALTO	The Resurrection Project
Centro Romero	Healthcare Alternative Systems	Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center
Centro San Bonifacio	High Jump/Open Architecture Chicago	San José Obrero Mission
Chicago Commons	Hispanic American Community Services (HACES)	San Miguel School Chicago
Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership	Illinois Math and Science Academy	SER Jobs for Progress, Inc., Lake County
Chicago Department of Family Support Services	Interfaith Leadership Project	Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project
Chicago Housing Authority	Instituto del Progreso Latino	Spanish Community Center
Chicago Park District	La Casa Norte	Telpochcalli Community Education Project
Chicago Public Schools	La Voz Latina	UCAN
Chicago Run	Latino Consortium	U.N.I.O.N. Impact Center
Chicago Tech Academy	Latinos Progresando	United Way Metropolitan, Chicago
Children's Museum of Art/Social Justice	Latino Union of Chicago	University of Chicago Collegiate Scholars Program
City Bureau	Latino United Community Housing Association	Urban Gateways
City Clerk's Office	Logan Square Neighborhood Association	West Town Leadership United
Claretian Associates	Mano a Mano Family Resource Center	Youth Service Project, Inc.
Community Renewal Society	Metropolitan Family Services	
ContraTiempo, NFP	Morton College	
Corazón Community Services	Mujeres Latinas en Acción	
DePaul University		