

LATINO POLICY FORUM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Empowering Latino Communities through Advocacy and Action

Inform. Influence. Lead.



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. Its goals are to improve education outcomes, advocate for affordable housing, promote just immigration policies, and strengthen leadership within the community. The Forum analyzes to inform, influence and lead, understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future. The Forum's 2022-2023 accomplishments include:

EDUCATION

- Strengthening the ability of children learning English to be ready for kindergarten by promoting access to quality bilingual education.
 - Ensuring preschool-aged children who are English learners are correctly identified, and their teachers receive professional development by garnering \$488,000. The Forum instituted this initiative based on the U of Chicago bilingual preschool research. The Illinois State Board of Education will administer.
 - Supporting early learning programs and services by securing an increase of \$75m in early childhood block grant by collaborating with peer advocates
 - Increasing the number of Latino and immigrant children receiving bilingual preschool by developing videos targeted to parents. Partnered with the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Early Childhood and INCCRRA
 - Strengthening bilingualism and biliteracy through research-based quality language and literacy instruction supporting home language that is developmentally appropriate and responsive to diverse groups of students, including English Learners.
- Increasing the number of Latinos who attend and complete college by concluding and disseminating a year-long research study that will inform new strategic, systems-focused advocacy agenda around college-going

HOUSING & IMMIGRATION

- Educating approximately 200 community members on their housing rights and the impact of public charge through the Immigrant Tenant Handbook. Presentations conducted in English and Spanish.
- Addressing the migrant humanitarian crisis by convening the Welcome to IL coalition, composed of over 300 individuals, to provide a space for information sharing on critical needs for asylum seekers such as housing, legal services, and mental health care.
- Strengthening migrant rights by advocating for 12 housing and immigration-related legislative bills in Springfield on topics such as Medicaid expansion to noncitizens and creating a state task force to develop a property tax payment plan option for delinquent homeowners.

ILLINOIS LATINO AGENDA

- Bolstering Latino unity and voice by convening the Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA) and launching a non-partisan voter-turnout campaign to encourage every eligible Latino to vote in the 2023 Mayoral elections.
- Ensuring a Latino perspective was considered in the Chicago Mayoral election by:
 - coordinating two polls oversampling Latino and African American voters in collaboration with Northwestern University and a coalition of Black and Latino organizations.
 - organizing a Mayoral run-off forum with both candidates and 250 participants.
 - relaunching the VotaYaIllinois website with information on when and where to vote.
 - developing a social media toolkit for ILA members.
 - conducting a paid digital campaign reaching 71k individuals and 156k impressions.
- Championing Latino community engagement in Springfield by organizing Latino Unity Day with community discussions and advocacy in Springfield, attracting more than 300 attendees, including the Governor and Lt Governor, Secretary of State, and Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus members.

MULTICULTURAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY / PROMOTING BLACK BROWN UNITY

- Contributing to racial, social, and economic justice by training MLA participants on newly developed curriculum: Level UP: Understanding Policy. The program enables MLA participants to learn how collective power can originate policy changes.
- Strengthening alum network by:
 - convening the Leadership Academy Alumni Ambassador Committee. Alums have extensive community involvement, network with, and mobilize support for the goals and mission of the Academy.
 - finalizing the Leadership Academy Alumni Directory, a live document that reflects over ten years of leadership participants and organizations
- Elevating discourse on race in Black and Latino communities by facilitating the Community Leadership Transgressing Race workshop during the NALEO Conference with Lideramos

ILLINOIS UNIDOS

- Better understand, treat, and prevent Long Covid by partnering with the National Institute of Health RECOVER Long-Covid Study, a first-of-its-kind patient-centered research in Chicago, IL.
- Help Latino community members navigate local healthcare and essential support services and resources to reinforce COVID-19 recovery by launching Illinois Unidos CallCenter - A first-of-its-kind Latino, bilingual Community Health Worker-led Call Center.
- Support the development of a city/state mental health plan for asylum-seeking migrant arrivals by joining the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant Mental Health's "Reimagining Mental Health Supports Program."
- Ensure essential health and safety standards are co-developed and implemented with workers and management in the low-wage work sector, including the manufacturing, warehousing, logistics, retail, and care industry, by developing Workplace Health & Safety Committee legislation.

RESEARCH STUDIES

- Outline ongoing challenges Latinos workers face by releasing the report: A 'Great Resignation' Not Due to Latinos, in collaboration with Metropolitan Planning Council.
- Create awareness by participating in a conversation at the NIH Conference on "Latinos and Long Covid and the Impact on Latino Seniors" in partnership with Dr. Maria Del Rios.
- Bring to light the structural conditions existing pre-Covid that were exacerbated by the pandemic, including the economic, education, housing, and mental health challenges Latinos face by releasing "Long-term Socioeconomic Consequences of Covid in the Latino Community: Creating a Path Forward" in partnership with the Brookings Institute and in collaboration with Illinois Unidos.