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April is Fair Housing Month: Promotores de Vivienda Justa connect Spanish speakers to fair housing resources

Chicago — April 24, 2014 — Finding a new home should be an exciting and joyful time, yet for too many Latino families housing discrimination still happens in Illinois communities. To raise awareness of rights under the federal Fair Housing Act and in recognition of Fair Housing Month, the Latino Policy Forum is training a new cohort of Promotores de Vivienda Justa (Fair Housing Ambassadors).

Promotores are civically-engaged individuals who donate their talent and time to serve as fair housing ambassadors. They are trained in federal, state and local ordinances to provide leadership, peer education, support and resources for community empowerment.

Launched in 2011, Promotores partner with Forum staff to connect the Spanish-speaking community to resources, conduct workshops and provide information at various community venues including Chicago's Mexican Consulate. 23 Promotores have gone through the program and outreach with the public has been expansive. In just three years, the program has reached more than 3,800 at the Consulate.

"It was an amazing experience and it really helped me step out of my comfort zone, especially as a presenter," said Alejandra Amueza, participant of the Promotores program. "It taught me professionalism while allowing me to teach others about their rights."

The federal Fair Housing Act declared it illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability or familial status in rental housing, real estate sales, lending, insurance and any financial or other services related to housing.

For more information in this program and future opportunities to participate, please contact Gypsy Gavia at 312-376-1766 ext. 235.

Throughout the rest of April, the Forum is partnering with Latino-serving housing organizations to provide information at Chicago's Mexican Consulate. Participating organizations include the Resurrection Project, Metropolitan Tenants Organization, Erie Neighborhood House, Northwest Housing Center, and Center for Changing Lives, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Chicago Commission on Human Relations, Open Communities, and Illinois Department of Human Rights.

**About the Latino Policy Forum**

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 conducts analysis to inform, influence and lead. Its goals are to improve education outcomes, advocate for affordable housing, promote just immigration policies, and engage diverse sectors of the community, with an understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future. For more information visit [www.latinopolicyforum.org](http://www.latinopolicyforum.org)

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