

# Illinois Latino Agenda

## Housing

### QUESTION:

1. If elected, how would you address homelessness in Illinois? What role, if any, would your administration play in supporting or coordinating municipal efforts?

#### QUINN

The issue of homelessness is often closely associated with other compounding issues, such as mental illness or addiction. My administration has been very focused on both addressing homelessness and providing more permanent supportive housing (PSH) for Illinois residents who are in need. Since I took office, we have financed the creation and preservation of more than 2,500 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless families and persons with disabilities, with more than \$350 million. The number of supportive housing units produced annually under my administration is more than double that of any other administration. To support this increase, I have allocated capital funds—\$130 million of *Illinois Jobs Now!* funds—for the creation and preservation of affordable housing, with more than 60% going specifically to serve the homeless and persons with disabilities. This is the first time in the history of Illinois that any Governor has allocated capital funds for housing, let alone housing for homeless and PSH. As Governor, I will continue to pursue the appropriation of capital funds to address homelessness in Illinois.

In addition, my administration created a new referral network to ensure that persons with disabilities in Illinois that need housing are matched with appropriate, available, affordable housing in communities across the state. My administration launched this network—called the State Referral Network—two years ago to respond to three PSH Consent Decrees, but as Governor, I will expand the role and duties of the Referral Network to include homelessness, and make sure that homeless families are able to access appropriate housing through the State Referral Network.

Municipalities are vitally important partners in addressing homelessness in Illinois. My administration has empowered and supported local housing efforts in many municipalities, and will continue to do so. Programs such as Building Blocks, where we allocated \$10 million to help municipalities address blight and vacant properties, or the new Abandoned Properties Program which is an ongoing resource for similar needs, show that my administration will give municipalities the resources they need to address their problems. We will continue to work with municipalities and their partners in expanding services and housing options for the homeless within their communities.

Division of Mental Health (DMH)/Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA): DASA has a project funded by the federal government working with housing advocates to develop services and infrastructure to address homelessness. The council that drives planning has Latino representation.

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD): Homelessness is

#### RAUNER

No response.

# Illinois Latino Agenda

the number one criteria for declaring a crisis for someone on the Prioritization for Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) list. When we declare a crisis, we are committed to bring the person into services within 48 to 72 hours.

**DFCS:** Recent outreach to the Hispanic/Latino community: In FY2013 we added 2 new Pilot programs at \$50,000 each – both serve predominantly Hispanic/Latino youth.

§ **La Casa Norte and**

§ **The Puerto Rican Cultural Center**

This pilot was continued in FY2014. We continued to work with these providers to build capacity. We added approximately \$150,000 to the PRCC project in FY2014 to expand services. Both of these providers will now have the capacity and experience necessary to effectively compete for funding under the FY2015 competitive RFP.

The homeless youth population in Illinois is significant. ISBE alone identified more than 58,000 homeless youth in our schools. We have a significant unmet need. The Homeless Youth program GR appropriation is approximately \$4.5 million and allows us to reach less than 2,000 of these youth. The administration could help by supporting the rebid of the Homeless Youth program by promoting the RFP as well as supporting an increased appropriation that would allow us to increase the number of service providers and communities served. Currently we are able to fund 22 programs and 2 pilot sites, a majority of which are in Cook and the surrounding areas.

Moving forward in FY14 and FY15, there is a lot of work to do in homelessness due to the significant increases across the state. One idea is to have our grant administration division to review and look for grants available that the agency can bid on it. In addition, working in an interoperability concept with the City of Chicago, Cook County and other entities, can be beneficial in providing the services to this community.

**QUESTION:**

**2. Foreclosures continue to plague communities of color in Illinois. As governor, how would your administration address the challenges associated with this issue?**

**QUINN**

To address this statewide crisis, my administration launched the Illinois Foreclosure Prevention Network, or IFPN. We recognized that many minority communities were especially hard hit by the crisis, so our outreach and events were heavily focused on these minority areas. Language barriers, especially within the Hispanic community, presented specific obstacles. Recognizing this, we hired a statewide marketing partner with strong ties to the Latino community, the Spanish Coalition for Housing, and we held events in many Hispanic communities. Nearly 30% of all advertising dollars were spent in Spanish language ads, and from the very first day of its launch, the IFPN's robust website has been completely available in Spanish at [www.espanol.keepyourhomeillinois.org](http://www.espanol.keepyourhomeillinois.org). The IFPN toll free line was launched with assistance in Spanish always available,

**RAUNER**

No response.

# Illinois Latino Agenda

as well.

IFPN is supported in part by the Illinois Hardest Hit Program, with \$445 million in federal assistance for unemployed homeowners to get their mortgage current and help with mortgage payments, up to \$35,000. By the end of this year, the program will have supported more than 12,000 Illinois families who were able to keep their home and avoid foreclosure. My administration has also allocated nearly \$30 million to housing counseling agencies under multiple state and federal programs. These funds help counseling agencies provide a broad range of homeowner support services to prevent and assist with foreclosure. More than 80% of these funds—fully \$23.4 million of \$30 million statewide—were allocated to organizations that specifically serve Spanish speaking clients.

My administration will continue to build upon this record of accomplishment and success and ensure that every effort to avoid foreclosure is available for Illinois families, especially Latino communities that were hardest hit by the crisis.

## QUESTION:

3. **One state strategy to promote affordable housing is the creative use of tax credits, i.e. the Low Income Housing Tax Credit and the Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit. If elected, how would your administration approach the issue of affordable housing?**

### QUINN

Affordable housing is a vital asset for Illinois families, communities and businesses. My administration is committed to preserving the existing stock of affordable housing and creating new units of affordable housing by maximizing the use of private activity bond volume cap, low income tax credits and other resources. In the past year alone, my administration allocated over \$470 million to create or preserve 5,000 units of affordable housing, generating over 3200 jobs in the process. We accomplished this by making affordable housing a priority and leveraging scarce resources for the construction of new affordable housing developments. As Governor, I will continue to fight for capital funds to be spent on affordable housing programs, as we succeeded with \$130 million in *Illinois Jobs Now!* funds being allocated to the construction of new units, renovation of existing affordable housing stock and other programs that support homeownership and return vacant, foreclosed homes to productive use.

To ensure that Illinois' existing stock of affordable housing is maintained for the long term, my administration launched the Preservation Now Program, allocating more than \$100 million in bond volume cap and \$20 million in soft funding to preserve projects providing rental assistance to some of Illinois' most needy residents. The program provides financing to owners who agree to extend existing rent subsidy contracts (with HUD), typically an additional term of 20 years. This program preserves this precious resource for our state while at the same time updating and improving the existing housing for the residents. In just six months, this new program has preserved 1,300 units of affordable housing for Illinois' lowest income,

### RAUNER

No response.

# Illinois Latino Agenda

---

most needy families.

We plan to continue this program in 2014 and will allocate as much private activity bond volume cap as necessary to maximize the use of 4% federal tax credits, thereby preserving the state's allocation of 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits which is limited. By leveraging 4% LIHTC to accomplish the state's preservation needs, we can focus the 9% LIHTC program on the new production of affordable units which typically requires a greater infusion of equity to succeed. By allocating resources efficiently and maximizing resources from the federal government (i.e. 4% LIHTC), I will continue to increase the number of affordable housing units produced to expand upon the record results we achieved in 2013.