

Illinois Latino Agenda

Public Safety

QUESTION:

1. **Efforts are taking place throughout the country to engage ‘disconnected youth,’ people aged 16 to 24 years old who are out of work and out of school. There is a strong correlation between being disconnected and perpetrating violence, future victimization, and formal involvement with the criminal justice system. In Illinois, Latinos account for the greatest proportion of disconnected youth in the state. How will your administration address the issue of disconnected youth from a fiscal, legislative, or administrative perspective?**

| QUINN | RAUNER |
|--|---------------------|
| <p>My Administration had made significant investments in Aftercare and successfully reintegrating high needs youth back into their communities. By making investments in a community-based continuum of services, we increase the likelihood that communities can respond to the needs of disconnected youth locally offering them job training and education programs and services, mental health and substance abuse to get them back on track.</p> <p>At DHS, there are currently preventive programs to address many of the barriers faced by Latino communities. The agency’s philosophy with the administering of these programs is that providers that are in the communities and are representative of the population have an inherent ability to better serve that population.</p> <p>DHS also requires all of our providers to collect data by race and ethnicity. This will afford us the ability in the future to look at outcomes by race and ethnicity and make more effective decisions regarding programming and services.</p> <p>DHS works with providers to help build their capacity to provide quality services to at risk youth through a number of methods, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-on-one assistance, • Funding a training, technical assistance and support provider that offers free trainings to youth service providers to help them build their agency’s internal structural capacities as well as teaching them staff management skills, program and agency budgeting etc. • Free grant writing trainings for providers and tools to help them apply for funding from any number of sources. | <p>No response.</p> |

QUESTION:

2. **Local education agencies can contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline by utilizing punitive approaches to discipline, including suspension, expulsion, or arrest, rather than a restorative approaches to conflict resolution. As governor, how will you promote restorative justice practices that focus on resolving youth issues and restoring justice to the offended, while not criminalizing youth?**

| QUINN | RAUNER |
|---|---------------------|
| <p>There are several good restorative policies and practices that I have my cabinet and policy team looking into that focus on restorative youth practices.</p> | <p>No response.</p> |

Illinois Latino Agenda

The Illinois Department of Human Services and the Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board are committed to reducing the racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. It is expected that the Redeploy Illinois program will further this goal.

Peer juries that allow youth to review activities and behavior by other youth that would otherwise land them in criminal court are great tools. These peer juries empower youth to make decisions about the sanctions that are appropriate and proportional to the behavior that another youth has been accused of. Another tool is community courts. These courts allow community members to review the crime of other community members and determine the appropriate sanctions. These low-cost interventions engage community members and ensure that sanctions are appropriate and proportional to the crime.

Another tool is the restorative justice circle. These services are the most common restorative justice interventions. The circles bring together victims, offenders and community members to talk about the harm to determine the appropriate resolution. All of these interventions are relatively low-cost, engaging community members and offering an alternative way to respond to community-based crimes.

All of the agencies under my purview that service families and children, such as the Department of Aging and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), were directed to utilize community service providers that have staff and caseworkers that reflect the demographics of the communities they serve. DCFS for example is required to provide information and have services in the Spanish language for the Latino community.

DCFS also makes cultural considerations and accommodations when determining the placement of the child. Children who are removed from a family can be placed with his or her relative even if that relative is an undocumented person. Additionally, the department has entered into a memorandum of understanding between the state of Illinois, DCFS and the Consulate Gen. of Mexico in Chicago regarding consular notification and access in cases involving minors.

Further, the Department of Human Rights travels throughout the state of Illinois to provide cultural awareness training to private and public sector entities.

QUESTION:

3. Nonprofit organizations provide a wide array of important services in communities of color, including the prevention of alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence, and after school programs. What is your commitment to state-funded prevention oriented programming?

QUINN

Here are a few examples of some of the key programs we are working with now: 1) Teen Reach, 2) Homeless Youth, 3) Redeploy Illinois, 4) Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services, 5) Substance Abuse Prevention Program, 6)

RAUNER

No response.

Illinois Latino Agenda

Partnerships for success, 7) Community Youth Services, and 8) Personal Responsibility Education Program, and 9) AmeriCorps.

Attached is more information about these programs.

Going forward, it is our goal to expand coverage of alcohol and substance abuse programs to more individuals through the Department of Human Services. We have protected domestic violence shelters from draconian cuts. Increasing our focus on early childhood education is the most affordable prevention program that we have. We need to do more to increase access to other behavioral health services that ensure people get the care they need that allows them stay in their communities.