



Quality Affordable Housing Still Out of Reach for Many Latinos

Housing Initiatives: Keeping the American Dream Alive for Latinos

Who We Are

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 advocates for affordable housing by conducting analysis to inform, influence and lead, all with an understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future for Illinois.

The Challenge

Access to quality, affordable housing has long provided a pathway to the American Dream. However, the ongoing foreclosure crisis, along with issues of housing affordability, discrimination, overcrowding, and predatory lending, keep that dream out of reach for many Latinos. Illinois has been hit hard by recent mortgage foreclosures, with the ninth-highest rate in the country in 2010. While communities across the state are suffering, Latinos—who accounted for half of the overall increase in owner-occupied homes in the region over the last decade—have been affected disproportionately. Foreclosure filings were still on the rise at the end of 2010 in Latino communities, up 17 percent in Chicago and 29 percent in its suburbs over the end of 2009.



Photo Credit: Olga Lopez

Where We Are Headed

While foreclosure devastates Latino communities across the region, Chicago's suburbs face unique challenges: These communities are seeing unprecedented growth of Latino residents, but often lack the social infrastructure to support them. Violations of fair housing laws abound in suburban communities, with Latinos complaining about selective enforcement of municipal codes; landlords steering applicants to housing options in select neighborhoods based on race, income, or family size; and municipalities discouraging the development of affordable rental housing for minority, low-income or immigrant communities. Too often, Latinos either don't know about their rights under the law, or are hesitant to complain because of fear of retaliation.

Our Response

The Latino Policy Forum is working to ensure that all Latinos, including low- and mid-income families, have access to quality, affordable housing. We are creating a policy agenda with the leadership of our Housing *Acuerdo* (Accord) work. We bring attention to the devastating effects of the mortgage foreclosure crisis in the Latino communities through analysis and fact sheets, and educate consumers and service providers on fair housing laws through events and workshops and are developing curricula to for people looking for housing acquire and keep quality, affordable housing.

Learn More: To find out more about our work, visit our website at: www.latinopolicyforum.org.

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