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**Advancing a ‘Shared Future’ through Local Latino Leaders
Illinois Latino Nonprofit Leadership Academy Call for Applications**

CHICAGO –March 14, 2011 – Strengthening the Latino nonprofit sector in economically challenging times, the Latino Policy Forum invites local Latino-serving organizations to apply for the third cohort of its Illinois Latino Nonprofit Leadership Academy.

The Academy provides an opportunity for two representatives—including an executive-level and an emerging leader—from each of 10 selected organizations to build personal and organizational leadership skills through an intensive nine-month program. Participants will complete a series of three retreat sessions and will receive one-on-one consulting and mentoring tailored to their organizations’ needs. The Academy is estimated to invest \$15,000 per organization and comes at no cost to participants.

The third cohort of the Academy will begin in August 2011 and run through May 2012. Interested organizations should submit a completed application, available at www.latinopolicyforum.org, by April 29. An information session will be held on Monday, March 28 at the Latino Policy Forum offices (180 N. Michigan, Ste 610). Contact Isabel Anadon at ianadon@latinopolicyforum.org to register.

Organizations must be Illinois-based and have a 501(c)3 status to be considered. Suburban and rural organizations are strongly encouraged to apply. Ten organizations will be selected to participate in Year 3 of the Academy.

“We’re at a critical crossroads as a society,” said Sylvia Puente, executive director of the Latino Policy Forum. “Immigrants—and by extension, Latinos—are increasingly a scapegoat for our current economic challenges. But there’s great potential to be tapped with the Latino community’s tremendous growth. The Leadership Academy gives community leaders the tools they need to navigate this dichotomy, taking their organizations to the next level of sustainability and excellence. These leaders will be at the helm of building the strong, vibrant Latino communities that will make us stronger as a city, a region, a state and a nation.

Organizations currently participating in the second cohort of the Illinois Latino Leadership Academy include: El Hogar del Niño, Enlace Chicago, Erie Elementary Charter School, Family Focus Nuestra Familia, Healthcare Alternative Systems, Latinos Progresando, Onward Neighborhood House, Grupo SALTO, SER Jobs for Progress of Lake County, Inc, and Telpochcalli Community Education Project.

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.

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