

2019 Highlights and Accomplishments



INFORM

- Students who begin as English Learners now have statistical data to show that as a group they academically outperform their counterparts in public schools, thanks to groundbreaking research by the Latino Policy Forum and University of Chicago Consortium of School Research that tracked 50,000 Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students.
- Hundreds of Chicago voters, who attended one of the Forum's mayoral candidate townhalls, learned about the candidates' stances on topics that focused on early childhood education and black and brown relations.
- Thousands of Illinois Latinos concerned about the expansion of the Public Charge were provided valuable information and urged to retain vital public services because of immigration advocacy and leadership provided by the Forum, which co-founded the Protecting Immigrant Families-Illinois (PIF-IL) coalition.

INFLUENCE

- Immigrants who rent homes in Illinois are now afforded protections because of the Immigrant Tenant Protection Act, a law the Forum advocated for that prohibits landlords from intimidating, harassing, or evicting tenants based on immigration or citizenship status.
- Immigrant parents in CPS were rallied by the Forum and able to secure an increase of \$12 million in state bilingual education funding for English Learners that had been misappropriated.
- Illinois public school policies were influenced by the Forum, which provided input to shape Governor J.B. Pritzker's educational agenda through his appointed transition team.
- Latino students were a considerable focus - the Forum helped devise recommendations to influence their achievement in early childhood and K-12 education as Mayor Lori Lightfoot appointed the Forum executive director to co-chair her Education Transition Team.

LEAD

- About 400 community leaders came together at the Illinois capitol to exercise their civic engagement and build participation in the 2020 Census during Latino Unity Day, which was co-convened by the Forum and featured speeches of support by the governor and lieutenant governor.
- The Illinois State Board of Education's Division of Multilingual Education hired five Latino staffers so that levels would be commensurate with other departments due to advocacy by the Forum.
- Many of Illinois' most influential leaders came together in Springfield for a reception hosted by the Forum to welcome newly elected Latino legislators and recent state government appointees.
- The pipeline of linguistically, culturally, racially, and ethnically diverse teachers was improved because of the passage of legislation that the Forum provided leadership on to create a pathway for bilingual high school graduates to pursue careers in education.
- Improved relationships and strengthened leadership between African American and Latino leaders by successfully completing the ninth year of leadership development training for emerging and established community leaders through the Multicultural Leadership Academy.

Visit **Guidestar** for more information.



INFORM

- Completion of the English Learner Handbook. The Forum's most extensive publication to date is a comprehensive guide for increased academic outcomes and lifetime success for English Learner students.
- Commissioning the survey group Latinos Decisions to sample Illinois for data on the effects of COVID-19 on Latinos, finding that 62 percent of Latino households in Illinois had suffered job loss, loss of family-business income, or pay cuts.
- Analysis of federal stimulus proposals including the CARES Act, the HEROES Act, the HEALS Act, and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to determine their impact on Latinos.
- Several virtual events including webinars in English and Spanish to provide updates and guidance related to "public charge" rule on immigration.

INFLUENCE

- Supporting the passage of the Illinois COVID-19 and Economic Recovery Emergency Renter and Homeowner Protection Act, which awarded nearly \$400M in financial relief.
- Serving on the Emergency Assistance for Illinois Family Coalition, advocating for state appropriation of emergency cash assistance, and disbursing \$575,000 in cash assistance to families adversely impacted by COVID-19.
- Serving on IllinoisUnidos, a coalition consisting of elected officials, health professionals, and community leaders to develop and implement strategies to address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color.
- Advocating for equitable allocation of resources with philanthropic, state, Chicago, and Cook County leaders, ensuring that an estimated \$5.1M from the Chicago COVID fund and an estimated \$2.5M from the State COVID fund have served those in need in the Latino community.
- Working with the Greater Chicago Food Depository to increase access to food pantries among Latino communities in need across the state.
- Working with Deputy Governor Sol Flores to assist in setting up mobile testing sites for Latino-majority communities and neighborhoods with high COVID-19 rates.

LEAD

- Completion of the fourth year of the Multicultural Leadership Academy, which brings Latino and Black Leaders together to foster a space where individuals can develop their skills as visionaries and agents of social change, policy impact, and/or community involvement.
- Meeting with the Governor's and Mayor's office and Cook County Presidents to formally request better health protections for Latino communities disproportionately impacted by COVID.
- Media appearances for ABC, WGN, Telemundo, Univision, WBEZ, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, and op-eds published in Crain's Chicago Business and The 74.