

A stylized sun icon with a yellow circle and radiating lines, positioned behind the letter 'o' in the word 'Latino'.

Latino

POLICY FORUM



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The Latino Policy Forum is the only Chicago-area organization that facilitates the involvement of Latinos at all levels of public decision-making. The Forum strives to improve education outcomes, advocate for affordable housing, promote just immigration policies, and engage diverse sectors of the community. It does this by conducting analysis to inform, influence, and lead, all with an understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future.

The Acuerdo is the Latino Policy Forum's instrument for building the policy-making and advocacy capacity of the Latino community. (The Spanish "acuerdo" translates to "mutual understanding" or "accord.") Acuerdos engage diverse sectors of the community around specific issue areas. The Latino Policy Forum uses the model to unite the collective leadership and influence of over 100 Latino-serving organizations in its Education, Housing, and Immigration Acuerdos, which function alongside its 48-member Illinois Latino Agenda.

Mission: To build the power, influence, and leadership of the Latino community through collective action to transform public policies that ensure the well-being of the community and society as a whole

Vision: The Latino Policy Forum envisions societal prosperity, unity, and equity in the nation and in the global community.

Dear Friends,



PHOTO © OLGA LOPEZ

If the 1980s were the “Decade of the Hispanic,” 2012 was the “Year of the Latino,” with Latinos at the front and center of political discourse. But the glare of the spotlight was at times harsh, with rhetoric swinging wildly from misguided calls for “self-deportation” in January to the embrace of Latinos as the “belles of the ball” by November.

The buzz was occasioned by the presidential race and speculation around whether the “sleeping giant” of Latino voters would awaken in time to swing the election. Both candidates did their best to court the power of this bloc, touting their plans to improve Latino communities and making promises of immigration reform. The Latino Policy Forum’s 2012 policy breakfast, held in October with the theme of “Latinos: The Deciding Vote,” forecasted November’s now-historic outcome: 70 percent of Latino voters nationwide (and 80 percent in Illinois) cast a ballot for the president, helping to secure his second term in the White House.

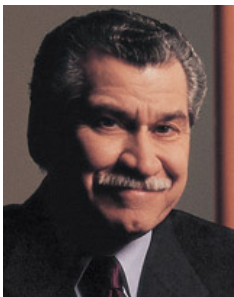
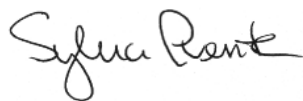


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But the election-fueled rhetoric failed to capture the nuance and complexity of the Latino community: Across the country, Latinos are as diverse in their political ideologies as the countries they represent. And in true-blue Illinois, the Latino community’s political maturation was affirmed by the local elections also held in November, where Latino candidates competed against other Latino candidates for state-level seats, as they had in years past. But nationally and locally, the political clout of the Latino community still doesn’t match its numbers. That’s why the Latino Policy Forum continues to invest in Latino leadership so that in the years ahead, there are even more Latino leaders on ballots—and sitting at decision-making tables in other sectors, as well.

While immigration reform rightly garnered much attention in the election cycle, immigration isn’t the only issue of interest for Latinos, a notion reflected in the multi-pronged advocacy agenda of the Latino Policy Forum. Our work in boosting academic outcomes for Latino students, ensuring access to quality affordable housing for Latino families, and investing in the leadership of Latino communities all complements our ongoing advocacy around immigration reform and efforts supporting immigrant integration. You’ll read more about our successes across these issues in the following pages.

The sleeping giant has awakened, and for the time being, it remains in the spotlight. But the work of the Latino Policy Forum continues much as it always has. We take stock of the political reckoning taking place across the country, leveraging the moment to ensure that political attention ultimately translates into tangible investment in our communities—and into an investment in our shared future.



Sylvia Puente
Executive Director
Latino Policy Forum



Hipólito “Paul” Roldan
President, Board of Directors
Latino Policy Forum





Education

1 in 4 students in Illinois classrooms is Latino.

The “great equalizer,” education is consistently cited as a top priority amongst Latino community leaders and families. While Latino students bring strong linguistic assets and soft skills to their classrooms, too many struggle academically: Three-fourths of Illinois Latino students graduate from high school in four years, but only 11.8 percent have earned a bachelor’s degree, and just 3.6 percent hold graduate or professional degrees. Research shows that improved outcomes in higher education are rooted in interventions in early education. In response, the Latino Policy Forum worked with its 11-member Education *Acuerdo* and other stakeholders to craft a birth-to-age-eight education agenda in 2012, designed to ameliorate the achievement gap between Latino and non-Latino students.

Source: Latino Policy Forum analysis of U.S. Census data

2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Produced and disseminated “Shaping Our Future: Building a Collective Latino K-12 Education Agenda,”** a report which offers a framework for building and providing a culturally relevant, quality K-12 education for Latino students, vetted through nearly 250 education advocates and community stakeholders
- **Shaped and built support for a \$45 million Early Childhood Construction Program grant,** the first of its kind in the country, which will provide access to preschool for an additional 1,200 Illinois children, including those served by two Education *Acuerdo* member organizations, both of which received \$5 million grants
- **Worked with state leaders to secure \$500,000 in scholarship resources** to help preschool teachers earn their bilingual/ESL endorsement or approval through the state’s federal Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant
- **Advocated for the appointment of a Latino to the Illinois Community College Board** through coordination with the Illinois Latino Family Commission and members of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus
- **Coordinated a local voice around Latino K-12 education concerns** by convening a 40-member Education Advisory Committee in an effort to identify policy directions and close the education achievement gap for Latino youth
- **Facilitated the submission of more than 30 sets of budget-related testimony** to Springfield lawmakers via members of the Forum’s *Education Acuerdo*
- **Trained 340 local parents with leadership skills** via the *Abriendo Puertas* program, designed to help parents build solid academic foundations for their children, continuing our goal to share the curriculum with more than 1,000 parents by the end of 2013
- **Expanded the scope of advocacy of the Education Acuerdo** by initiating conversations, subcommittees, and an environmental scan focused on birth-to-age-three services and early childhood special education transitions

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Immigration

Foreign-born residents make up 14 percent of Illinois' population.

While not all Latinos are immigrants, and not all immigrants are Latino, the terms “immigrant” and “Latino” have become nearly synonymous in mainstream U.S. media and discourse. The notion is reflected on Capitol Hill as well: Strong Latino support for the Democratic Party in November 2012 thrust an immigration reform agenda to the top of the to-do list for both Republicans and Democrats seeking to woo the Latino electorate in 2016 and beyond. In response, the Latino Policy Forum and its Immigration Acuerdo monitored rapidly-shifting developments in federal reform legislation, and in Illinois, continued efforts to integrate the entrepreneurial, linguistic, and economic assets of the state’s two million foreign-born residents into local communities.

Source: Latino Policy Forum analysis of U.S. Census data

2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Provided credible, consistent information on the ever-changing landscape of immigration policy,** helping immigrant communities and advocacy groups better understand federal policy changes through regular bilingual communications and analysis, including real-time updates on Arizona’s SB1070, changes to the 3- and 10-year bars, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- **Lifted the voices of local immigration advocates at the state and federal levels** via two Immigration Acuerdo Advocacy

Days in Springfield for state-funded insurance for low-income and undocumented children (AllKids) and the drivers licenses for all provision (SB957) while also calling for additional privacy and protection measures for SB957; provided public comments on federal immigration policy rule changes

- **Trained 16 community members in a first cohort of Promotores de Inmigración (“Immigrant Ambassadors”),** empowering leaders with a strong understanding of immigration policy and its effects on immigrant communities

PHOTO © OLGA LOPEZ





Housing

Latino homeowners accounted for half of the growth in owner-occupied homes over the past decade.

Access to quality affordable housing is critical for the well-being of all families but eludes too many Latinos. Discrimination, rising costs, and limited access to housing counseling, along with challenges related to the supply of and access to affordable housing programs, are all day-to-day realities in Latino communities. As a result, more than half of Illinois Latino homeowners and renters spend more than 30 percent of their household income on housing costs, a percentage counselors deem unsustainable. Unaffordable housing forces many families out of their apartments or homes—there were nearly 8,500 foreclosure filings in predominately-Latino communities in Chicagoland in 2012—and into overcrowded conditions as they bunk up with friends or extended families. In response, the Latino Policy Forum, along with its [Housing Acuerdo](#), worked to ensure that all Latinos, including low- and mid-income families, have access to quality affordable housing.

Source: Latino Policy Forum analysis of U.S. Census data

2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Initiated a new series of “PODER” (Policy Developments & Research) policy briefs**, a series that offers Latino-specific policy analysis in housing, immigration, education, and other sectors; the inaugural issue examined Latino participation in Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) programs
- **Empowered more than 1,300 community members** with information on fair housing laws, foreclosure, fair lending, and the Chicago Residential Landlord Tenant Ordinance via a phone referral service, sessions at Chicago’s Mexican Consulate, as well as community-based and practitioner trainings, including nine Fair Housing Education Promoters
- **Developed a housing-focused “TECHO”© (Training and Education Create Housing Opportunities) curriculum** designed to develop community-based trainers capable of delivering practical housing education
- **Advocated for the hire of two bilingual (English/Spanish) Equal Opportunity Specialists** in the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Midwest Regional Office to ensure the provision of previously unavailable housing services in Spanish
- **Lifted a Latino voice in ongoing dialogue with housing-related government agencies**, including the CHA, Illinois Attorney General, Illinois Housing Development Authority, and HUD, around equitable allocation of resources, cultural competency, equitable access to services, and Spanish-language access

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Leadership

In November 2012, 12 percent of the Illinois electorate was Latino — up dramatically from their 6 percent share in 2008.

In November 2012, 12 percent of Illinois voters were Latino, up from 6 percent in 2008. And that dramatic increase has drawn much media attention to the political clout of the growing Latino electorate. Still, the spotlight hasn't translated to adequate increases in investment in or representation for the Latino community in Illinois. Between FY09 and FY12, the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) reduced grants to Latino-serving nonprofit organizations by 28 percent. The Latino Policy Forum believes greater investment is critical to meeting the needs and serving the interests of Latino residents. To that end, the Forum worked to cultivate leaders to head thriving local Latino-serving nonprofits and advocated for restored funding to the community's nonprofit sector.

Source: Latino Policy Forum analysis of U.S. Census data and 2012 exit polling data.

2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Encouraged sustainable leadership in Latino-led, Latino-serving organizations** by convening the fourth cohort of the Illinois Latino Nonprofit Leadership Academy, expanding the program to include individual participants, and engaging the Academy's 80-member alumni network
- **Secured \$750,000 in funding for the Latino Family Commission** in FY13 through coordinated advocacy with the Illinois Latino Agenda, members of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus, the Illinois Association of Hispanic State Employees, and the Latino Family Commission
- **Successfully advocated for DHS to restore more than \$500,000 in funding to Latino-serving nonprofits** from FY12 to FY13, effectively stopping a multi-year trend in cuts
- **Coordinated a Get Out the Vote event in suburban Chicago** and distributed a pre-election questionnaire to candidates in predominantly Latino districts via the Illinois Latino Agenda
- **Advocated for the appointment of a Latino to the Illinois Community College Board** through coordination with the Illinois Latino Family Commission and members of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus

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The Latino Policy Forum thanks the following individuals and organizations for their generous support of our work:

\$100,000+

The Chicago Community Trust
The Joyce Foundation
Pritzker Children's Initiative
The Robert R. McCormick Foundation

\$10,000-\$99,999

The Allstate Foundation
Allstate Insurance Company
Alphawood Foundation
American Express Philanthropy
The Boeing Company
City of Chicago - Department of Housing and Economic Development
The Chicago Community Trust
ComEd
Evanston Community Foundation
Grand Victoria Foundation
The Harris Family Foundation
Irving Harris Foundation
Illinois Department of Human Service (IDHS)
JP Morgan Chase & Co.
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In-Kind

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Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2012

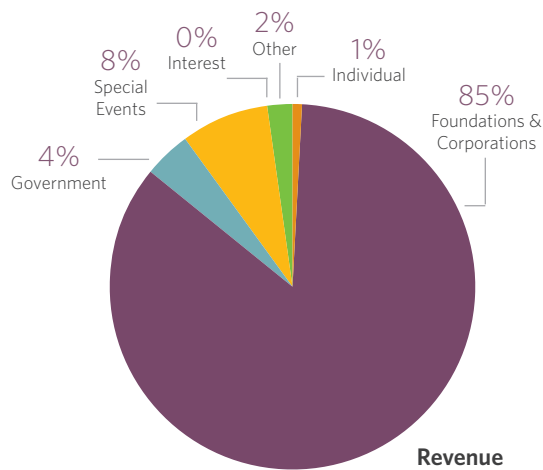
ASSETS

Cash/Cash Equivalents	\$ 638,756
Grants Receivable	\$ 72,1236
Other Receivable	\$ 44,167
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 1,248
Total Current Assets	\$756,307
Certificate of deposit	\$ 32,587
Property and equipment*	\$ 10,473
Security deposits	\$ 9,500
Total Assets	\$808,867

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

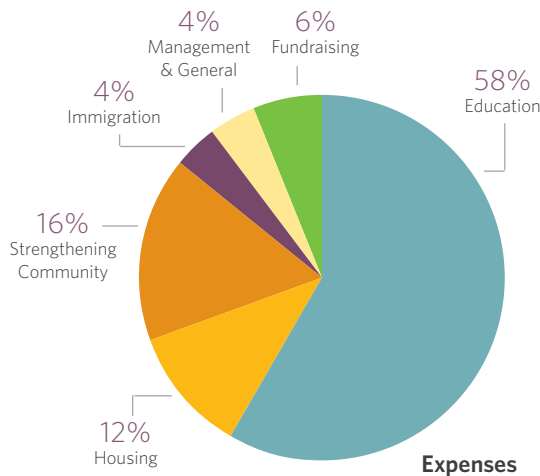
Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	\$ 53,803
Accrued Expenses	\$ 13,868
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 67,671
Deferred Rent	\$ 24,418
Net Assets:	
Unrestricted	\$430,038
Temporarily Restricted	\$286,740
Total Net Assets	\$ 716,778
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$808,867

*At cost, less accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$99,922



REVENUE

Individuals	\$ 8,600
Foundations & Corporations	\$1,089,155
Government	\$ 52,147
Special Events	\$ 108,255
Interest	\$ 1,067
Other	\$ 30,379
Total	\$1,289,603



EXPENSES

Education	\$ 698,385
Housing	\$ 137,137
Strengthening Community	\$ 188,815
Immigration	\$ 50,282
Management & General	\$ 50,080
Fundraising	\$ 72,117
Total	\$1,196,816

2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

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President: Hipólito "Paul" Roldan, *Hispanic Housing Development Corporation*

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