



# Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation

c/o Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP | 191 N. Wacker Drive #3700 | Chicago, IL 60606

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May 5, 2020

Dear Friend of the Latino Community,

While we are all living through this unprecedented crisis due to the COVID19 pandemic, families living in vulnerable communities are struggling for their very survival. The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation (ILLCF) recognizes that many Latino families, despite being disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, are not eligible for government relief programs. We are responding to this emergency by setting up the Illinois Legislative **Latino Caucus COVID 19 Solidarity Fund** that will go directly to families in the community and we need your help. We are asking that you consider making a contribution today.

The ILLCF advocates on behalf of the 2.2 million Latinx residents in Illinois, who comprise more than 17.5% of the total population and 25% of K-12 students in the state. We are the largest and fastest growing ethnic minority in the state and driving much of its economic growth, with over \$55.8 billion in purchasing power. Yet, the Latinx community is disproportionately affected by this pandemic, many without access to government relief and in need of urgent support to survive this crisis.

### ***How are Latinos disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?***<sup>1</sup>

- Recent state IDPH testing statistics indicate a 60% infection rate in Latino neighborhoods, compared to 20% -30% in other communities.
- Latinx are overrepresented in service, manufacturing, and hospitality, the hardest hit sectors. Moreover, Latinx who are losing their jobs (46%) or have a reduction in work hours (35%) may not be eligible for unemployment benefits.
- Latinx represent a large percentage of workers performing essential functions, placing them at higher risk for contracting COVID19 – At least 36% of Latinos are working outside the home and at least one third do NOT feel safe
- Latinx are more likely to be uninsured and underinsured (20%), and less likely to have a “health home,” access to healthcare, and because of citizenship status, may fear seeking healthcare – Another 20% have lost their employer-based health insurance
- Many Latinx will be excluded from government relief programs, including households where one spouse filed with an ITIN number, making the family ineligible for CARES Coronavirus Relief Payments.
- At least 66% of Latino households report difficulty finding necessities (e.g. medicine, food, supplies), 43% have trouble making their rent/mortgage, and 33% have already lost a significant portion of their savings/retirement.



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May should be a month of celebrations, instead, it is a time filled with growing panic and concern in our community. Thousands of Latino families are at the end of their rope, with nowhere to turn to pay their rent or meet their basic needs. To address this state of emergency, the ILLCF has partnered with the Immigrant Funders Collaborative (IFC) at the **Chicago Community Trust (CCT)** to manage the Solidarity Fund grant making process. Grant funds will be awarded to Latino immigrant-serving nonprofits that will provide direct cash assistance to families. Families like:

*Ms. Rosales from Aurora, who was employed in housekeeping at a hotel but was laid off and does not know when she will return to work or how she is going to feed her children this week, or*

*Mr. Lopez from Little Village, who worked at a restaurant but now his hours have been reduced so drastically he will not have enough income to make rent this month, or*

*The González family from Waukegan, who fear they have contracted COVID-19 from a workplace that did not take safety precautions, with no way to get healthcare or keep the rest of their large household safe.*

During this crisis, we need to come together to get critical relief funding to vulnerable Latino families, many who do not have access to federal cash assistance. We are asking that you please support our efforts by making a contribution to the ILLCF COVID 19 Solidarity Fund today.

To make your contribution, make checks payable to **Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation** and note "COVID19 Solidarity Fund." You may ship via USPS, UPS, FedEx or messenger service to:

**Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP**  
c/o Nicolas Guzman  
191 N. Wacker Dr. Suite 3700  
Chicago, IL 60606

If you prefer to send your donation via ACH Bank Transfer or have any additional questions, please contact us at [ILLCFoundation@gmail.com](mailto:ILLCFoundation@gmail.com) or 480-882-8541 for details.

We appreciate your contribution and willingness to support Latino families throughout the state during this challenging time. May you and your loved ones be safe and healthy.

Yours in community,

Sen. Omar Aquino  
ILLCF Co-Chair

Rep. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez  
ILLCF Co-Chair

<sup>1</sup> SOMOS COVID19 National Latino Survey April 7-12, 2020