Strength in Unity:
Mapping Community Needs and Priorities in Proviso Township

A Report of the Community Alliance
Strength in Unity:

Mapping Community Needs and Priorities in Proviso Township

A report of the Community Alliance organized around the municipalities of Melrose Park, Bellwood, Stone Park, Maywood, and Northlake to foster collaboration and understanding and set goals for connecting community assets with community needs.

Sandra del Toro
Sylvia Puente
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Technical assistance provided by

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The summer of 2007 marked an important beginning for us—a collaboration that would eventually lead to the creation of a collective process now called the Community Alliance. This process has led to fruitful dialogue and synergy among community agencies, local community leadership, and service providers in Proviso Township—Melrose Park in particular. As we worked together we learned to respect each other’s work and the strong commitment each of us has to shared common goals and a vision for making a difference in our communities. To all those who have contributed their time, ideas, and challenges, we thank you for keeping us on track and on task.

Through this process we have begun to understand the strength that working together brings to each of our organizations as well as the benefit that it brings to the community. These partnerships have allowed our organizations to write small grant proposals together and develop culturally relevant programs. One of the major tangible outcomes is that Proviso Township has been granted over $4 million for community development. We have identified gaps in services and a list of priorities for these areas. But there is still much work to be done. The current need for social services has grown beyond expectation. The economic recession has left thousands of families with greater need. The manufacturing sector has steadily been withdrawing from the suburbs, which used to be the major source of employment for the Latino community.

We are fortunate to be able to publish and share our work, our collaborative process, and its progress in the hope that it can help stimulate collaborations within other communities, especially suburban and rural areas that are experiencing an influx of Latinos. Such collaborations are important particularly in the suburbs, where Latinos and other non-English speakers have been moving from metropolitan cities where living expenses have risen due to economic challenges. Pay particular attention to our list of priorities and recommendations in education, parental involvement, social services, health issues, senior programs, substance abuse prevention, youth, safety, and employment needs.

This report recognizes and builds on community work that has been done in the past. Our primary goal for this publication is that it be a call for action for communities that wish to be sensitive to the current demographic, cultural, and linguistic changes by identifying gaps in service and opportunities to work with these diverse new communities. We hope that this document may provide a blueprint for others seeking to establish a shared vision and voice for building thriving communities. In conclusion, we make a final plea to key community leaders to recognize that suburban community change is not something that can be deferred to the future. Many suburban communities have already changed, and we need to rapidly strategize a process for maintaining a healthy and stable suburban life for the emerging Latino suburban communities.

Father Claudio Holzer  
Community Alliance, Co-Chair

Silvia Villa  
Community Alliance, Co-Chair
Traditionally, and by commonly held opinion, suburbs are bastions of white middle-class families. This, however, is changing rapidly.

The University of Notre Dame’s Institute for Latino studies has worked over the past eight years at the cutting edge of the new demographic reality of the Chicagoland region, which is that the majority of Latinos now live in suburbia, and that “minorities” are poised to become majority over the next decade. The communities of Melrose Park, Bellwood, Maywood, Northlake, and Stone Park are examples of this new reality. Together, Latinos and African Americans are the majority minority group, and over one in four residents is Latino. These communities exemplify the trend—not the myth—that virtually all Latino growth in the region has been in suburbia, a trend that will continue into the foreseeable future.

The increasing Latino populations of these communities will make a vital contribution to the economic development of the region, for example, the vibrant commercial strips, the economic tax base, and the levels of homeownership. This report focuses on identifying what investments are necessary to ensure the well-being of the youth and families who are remaking the new suburbia.

Working with local organizations, initially in Berwyn and Cicero and most recently in Melrose Park and its surrounding communities, the Institute has pioneered a model of local community development. It engages local leadership, school personnel, social service and mental health staff, and others to undertake a process of determining priorities to improve the lives of children and families in their respective communities. Through this proactive process of engagement, the leaders of these communities have come to understand that even with limited resources their common vision and willingness to share can enable them to chart a new course.

The Institute is proud to have partnered with the Community Alliance in this process and in providing technical assistance on the development of this report. If I may inject a personal note: I mention with some nostalgia that this is one of the last projects that I worked on during my eight-year tenure with the University of Notre Dame’s Institute for Latino Studies. Although I have moved on to a new role, I remain committed to ensuring the development of suburban leaders and organizations.

¡Adelante!

Sylvia Puente
Executive Director
Latino Policy Forum
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Executive Summary

The Community Alliance is a volunteer coalition of over 40 community-based organizations, local governments, schools, community members, and churches working together for the betterment of the Latino population in Melrose Park and the immediate surrounding towns of Bellwood, Maywood, Northlake, and Stone Park. The mission of the Community Alliance is to work together to streamline services and resources for the community in the areas of social services, education, parental participation, immigration, and youth services and safety. Community Alliance members convene monthly to share information on organizational activities, discuss issues related to service provision, and address trends related to the growth of the region’s Latino residents.

The purpose of this report is to document the priorities and short- and long-term goals of the Community Alliance collaborative and its committees. The priorities, action steps, and strategies were reached through a series of discussions of committee members who shared their knowledge of the community and its resources to improve the quality of life for families in the identified region.

Demographic Profile

The municipalities highlighted in this report have rapidly growing Latino and immigrant populations. In 2000 28.7 percent of the combined residents of Melrose Park, Maywood, Bellwood, Stone Park, and Northlake were Latino. Of these Latino residents, 83 percent were of Mexican origin. According to the 2000 Census, there were more than 9,000 Latino children in the selected municipalities. Nearly 3,000 Latino children were under age 5 and more than 6,000 were between the ages of 5 and 17, indicating a need to expand youth recreational activities for this population. In addition, there are more than 16,000 immigrants in the selected municipalities, comprising nearly 20 percent of the population. These immigrants are fairly recent arrivals to the United States, more than four in ten having arrived in the United States between 1990 and 2000.

Recent data released by the American Community Survey provides estimates of population increases since the 2000 Census. However, data is not available for all of the municipalities. Melrose Park experienced a 22 percent increase in its Latino population, while Maywood’s Latino population grew by 64 percent between 2000 and 2007. An increase larger than the increase in Cook County during the same period (13 percent).

Issues of poverty, language, and education remain a challenge for many families. More than one-third of residents of these municipalities reported speaking a language other than English at home. The unemployment rate in 2000 in these areas ranged from a low of 3.7 percent in Northlake to a high of 7.5 percent in Maywood. While only 7.1 percent of children in Northlake lived in poverty, twice that proportion of children in Maywood (14.3 percent) lived in poverty. Education is a concern for these municipalities as data indicates a large percentage of residents with low levels of educational attainment. According to 2000 Census data, 56.2 percent of residents of Stone Park had not completed high
school. Only 85 Latinos in Stone Park and 71 Latinos in Maywood had completed a bachelor’s degree or higher as of the 2000 Census.

In May 2008 the Community Alliance engaged in its first goal-setting process to discuss the pressing issues facing Latinos in these municipalities. Members identified five priority areas along with goals and strategies for addressing them. The dialogues allowed Community Alliance members to bring together faith, social service, municipal, and school leaders to explore strategies to integrate newcomers into their communities and to ascertain priorities for the youth and families living in these communities.

Priority Areas and Goals

Education
Goal: To facilitate and support educational opportunities in the Latino community that increase educational achievement, reduce the high dropout rate, and increase the pursuit of postsecondary options for Latino students.

Immigration
Goal: To strengthen and enhance the lives of immigrants living in Proviso Township through educational efforts related to immigration law and immigrant rights.

Social Services
Goal: To provide informational and social services to the community residents of Proviso and Leyden Townships of the different services available to them, while identifying other service needs in this community, and collaborating with other community agencies to provide such services.

Parental Participation
Goal: To increase parental participation in school and community activities and to involve parents as active leaders in their children’s lives.

Youth Services and Safety
Goal: To seek avenues to provide more youth recreational activities so that they can grow in a safe and healthy environment.
Strategies

I. General
- Partner with existing coalitions of school superintendents, mayors, and college administrators to present the Melrose Park Community Alliance Report findings. Identify the programs, resources, areas for improvement, and barriers that impact Latino students and their parents. Improve outreach strategies and then provide and facilitate workable solutions.
  - Develop a community-wide bilingual/bicultural plan that is guided by best practices for services.
  - Establish a standardized process for hiring of bilingual staff in the public sector (i.e., bilingual testing).
  - Increase the number of bilingual staff in the community college and local government and among social service providers.
  - Increase the number of programs within the local communities (WIC services in Melrose Park).
  - Work with municipalities to create an integration agenda.
  - Create community-wide youth programs that are flexible, innovative, bilingual, and bicultural at non-traditional sites (e.g., churches, fire departments, police department, etc.)
  - Reconfigure a plan for public transportation that bridges the gap between public and private transportation for low-income families and senior citizens with flexible hours.

II. Education
- Provide graduation credit for work-related experience.
  - Open bilingual/bicultural childcare centers.
  - Open bilingual/bicultural pre-K programs in alternative settings.
  - Create bilingual/bicultural parent-child education and prevention programs.
  - Develop academically rich programs to prevent drop-outs.
  - Create school-to-work programs.
  - Increase access and awareness to vocational/technical certification programs.
  - Promote awareness of and readiness in college success pathways.
  - Increase the number of youth that graduate from high school and attend college.
  - Create a youth career center in the community.
  - Establish youth mentor programs.

III. Immigrant Integration
- Hold information forums for the immigrant community.
  - Establish a local community legal clinic for low-income families in need of legal assistance.
  - Promote leadership development of community residents to become active participants in the public life of their community.
  - Encourage local laws and ordinances that promote immigrant integration.
  - Sponsor educational training for law enforcement officers and local government to learn the laws that apply to immigrant families.

IV. Social Services
- Create awareness of affordable primary health care sites in Proviso Township and provide linkage.
  - Encourage medical interpreter technique training (language assessment tests and interpreting techniques courses).
  - Create health prevention programs in the community that go beyond health screenings.
  - Develop “Promotoras de salud” program, a neighbor-to-neighbor concept of health guidance.
  - Create bilingual student allied health care mentorship programs to encourage more bilingual health professionals from the community.
  - Develop drug series workshops to educate the youth about consequences of drug use and educate parents on using behaviors.
  - Develop relationships with the police department because they are the first to see “the potential client” in substance abuse situations.
  - Create awareness of affordable mental health sites in Proviso Township and provide linkage.
  - Develop a partnership to provide bilingual and multicultural programs for Latino seniors.
• Build a women’s support program with bilingual services including awareness, intervention, and shelter for victims of domestic violence.
• Assess homeownership, foreclosure trends, and financial literacy needs.

V. Parental Participation
• Hold monthly activities with parents.
• Create community-wide parent educational programs including, reading, and math strategies to share with their children.
• Develop college-bound family programs.
• Involve parents directly through leadership development programs to aid in shaping programs and policy.
• Distribute monthly paper and electronic parent-led newsletter on the latest events in the community.
• Hold regular focus groups with parents/stakeholders of the agencies serving the area to inform us if best practices are being followed.
• Create parent resource centers in schools.

VI. Youth Services and Safety
• Develop an assessment tool to determine existing recreational resources in the community and effectively reach out to families for their participation in youth recreation activities.
• Meet with park district, identify programs, learn about the different opportunities and develop an effective outreach and marketing strategy to involve more families in these programs.
• Hold a youth roundtable to engage youth and hear directly from them their hopes, desires and needs for their future.
• Develop Saturday/summer youth programs.
• Cultivate more comprehensive youth programs
  ▶ Job training/placement as a deterrent to gang activity
  ▶ Gang prevention
  ▶ Substance abuse prevention
  ▶ Mentoring
• Create volunteer opportunities or mentor programs.
• Expand affordable youth recreational activities for all age groups.
• Expand prevention programs for girls (pregnancy, teen dating violence, etc.).
• Create mentoring program for girls.

This report presents demographic data and documents the needs among residents of Proviso Township in order to leverage resources and highlight existing programs. It is the hope of the Community Alliance that this publication will serve as a road map to plan for the long-term integration of its residents.
Introduction

This report emerged in response to the need among social service agencies to document needs among residents of Proviso Township and gain access to reliable demographic data in order to leverage resources, document available programs, and plan for the long-term integration of its residents. Proviso Township is made up of the following suburban communities west of Chicago: Bellwood, Berkeley, Broadview, Brookfield, Forest Park, Hillside, LaGrange Park, Maywood, Melrose Park, North Riverside, Northlake, Stone Park, Westchester and Western Springs.

In August of 2007, stakeholders from Bellwood, Maywood, Melrose Park, Northlake, and Stone Park, convened to discuss the needs of the growing Latino community in Proviso Township and the services available to them. After an initial meeting, these community representatives organized themselves as the Community Alliance to improve the lives of the Latino community in Proviso Township. The Community Alliance is a collaboration of community-based organizations, local governments, schools, community members, and churches working together for the betterment of the community in Melrose Park and the immediate surrounding towns of Bellwood, Maywood, Northlake and Stone Park. The mission of the Community Alliance is to work together to streamline services and resources for the community in social services, education, parent involvement, immigration, youth services and safety.

The Community Alliance brought together community members, service providers, educators, faith-based organizations, and elected officials who made a commitment to work together to identify needs and service trends. Through a monthly forum, agencies discussed issues related to service provision in Proviso Township for the Latino community.

Since the inception of the Community Alliance in August 2007 members agree that they have increased their knowledge of services available locally and their referral networks have grown. Some members have also developed collaborative programs which emerged in large part due to the relationships they formed through the Community Alliance.

As a result of these initial discussions, in May 2008 the Community Alliance met with a focused contingency of its leadership to identify priority areas of concern for families in the community and identify goals and action steps for these priority areas. Through this process the following areas emerged as the top priorities:
Education, Immigration, Social Services, Parental Participation, and Youth Services and Safety. A committee was formed for each priority area, with chairs facilitating a goal and action setting process. From these discussions emerged the priorities and goals of the Community Alliance and its committees. Further, it has developed an inventory of services within targeted communities and used it to identify gaps in services.

Community Description

The municipalities highlighted in this report have rapidly growing Latino and immigrant populations. Between 1990 and 2000 the Latino population in Melrose Park nearly doubled from 6,303 to 12,485.\textsuperscript{1} In west suburban Stone Park the Latino population grew from 2,544 to 4,057 in the same decade.\textsuperscript{2} While the city of Northlake lost some of its population since the 1990 census, its Latino population more than doubled from 2,028 to 4,133 in 2000. Latinos comprise the majority of the populations of Stone Park (79.1 percent) and Melrose Park (53.9 percent). As of 2000 the Latino population is overwhelmingly of Mexican origin.

Recent data released by the American Community Survey provides estimates of population increases since the 2000 Census and indicates growth in the region’s Latino population through 2007. However, data for municipalities of fewer than 20,000 residents is not available. According to available data, Melrose Park experienced a 22 percent increase in its Latino population, while Maywood’s Latino population grew by 64 percent. Latinos comprise 64 percent of the population of Melrose Park up from 53.9 percent in 2000. Latinos in Maywood comprise 19 percent of the total population. The trend of increasing suburban population is evident throughout the region as 55 percent of Latinos in the Chicago Metropolitan Area.

\textsuperscript{1} US Census Bureau, 1990 Census of Population and Housing.
\textsuperscript{2} Ibid.

Figure 1
Total Population in Selected Municipalities, 2000

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{population_chart.png}
\caption{Total Population in Selected Municipalities, 2000}
\end{figure}
now live in the suburbs. In fact, all the demographic growth of the Latino population in the region since 2000 has been in suburbia.

Anecdotal evidence obtained through interviews with municipal leaders of smaller municipalities suggests that the number of Latinos in the region has continued to increase since 2000. In west suburban Bellwood, village officials estimate that up to 12 percent of the population is Latino, up from nearly 8 percent in 2000. Village officials arrived at this estimate by measuring the new water accounts of Spanish-surnamed residents which have opened in recent years.3

3 Interview with Tina Alcaraz, 11/12/2008.

### Table 1. Total Populations of Selected Municipalities, 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Melrose Park</th>
<th>Maywood</th>
<th>Bellwood</th>
<th>Stone Park</th>
<th>Northlake</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>23,171</td>
<td>26,987</td>
<td>20,535</td>
<td>5,127</td>
<td>11,878</td>
<td>87,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Latino</td>
<td>12,485</td>
<td>2,843</td>
<td>1,631</td>
<td>4,057</td>
<td>4,133</td>
<td>25,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Latino</td>
<td>53.9</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>79.1</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>28.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Latinos Who Are Mexican</td>
<td>84.1</td>
<td>85.9</td>
<td>79.5</td>
<td>84.3</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>83.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census

### Table 2. Melrose Park Population Change, 2000–2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2005–2007</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>23,171</td>
<td>23,746</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>12,485</td>
<td>15,174</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Born</td>
<td>8,195</td>
<td>9,879</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau, 2005–2007 American Community Survey

### Table 3. Maywood Population Change, 2000–2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2005–2007</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>26,987</td>
<td>25,006</td>
<td>–7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>2,843</td>
<td>4,655</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Born</td>
<td>1,946</td>
<td>2,193</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau, 2005–2007 American Community Survey

### Table 4. Children in Selected Municipalities, 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Melrose Park</th>
<th>Maywood</th>
<th>Bellwood</th>
<th>Stone Park</th>
<th>Northlake</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 (non-Latino)</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>1,807</td>
<td>1,380</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>4,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 (Latino)</td>
<td>1,530</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>2,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–17 (non-Latino)</td>
<td>1,354</td>
<td>5,632</td>
<td>4,281</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>1,184</td>
<td>12,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–17 (Latino)</td>
<td>2,925</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>1,045</td>
<td>6,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6,347</td>
<td>8,549</td>
<td>6,261</td>
<td>1,695</td>
<td>3,014</td>
<td>25,866</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census

### Age

**Children**

In 2000 there were nearly 25,000 children under 18 in the selected municipalities. Approximately 7,000 children were under age 5 and more than 18,000 were between the ages of 5 and 17. The percentage of residents who were under the age of 18, ranged from a low of 25 percent for Northlake, to a high of 33 percent for Stone Park.

According to the 2000 Census, there were more than 9,000 Latino children in the selected municipalities. Nearly 3,000 Latino children were under age 5 and more than 6,000 were between the ages of 5 and 17. The percentage of Latinos under the age of 18 ranged from a low of 35 percent for
Melrose Park and Northlake to a high of 39 percent for Maywood. Those figures were expected to show an increase by 2008.

Data from 2006 indicates that 35 percent of all Latinos in the Chicago metropolitan region\(^4\) were under the age of 18 and that US-born Latinos were the youngest in the region with nearly 57 percent of them under the age of 18.\(^5\)

\(^4\) The Chicago metropolitan region refers to the following eight counties: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will.


| Table 5. Population over 65 in Selected Municipalities, 2000 |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Non-Latino      | 2,181          | 2,496          | 1,558          | 167            |
| Latino          | 341            | 95             | 60             | 118            |
| Percent of Population over 65 | 10.9 | 9.6 | 7.9 | 5.6 |
| Percent of Latino Population over 65 | 2.7 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 2.9 |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census
Seniors
More than 8,800 residents were over the age of 65 in 2000 in these selected municipalities. The highest percentage of seniors was in Northlake (15.4 percent) and the lowest percentage was located in Stone Park (5.6 percent). Latinos comprised a low number of seniors overall with only 761 reported in the 2000 census, with the largest number of Latino seniors in Melrose Park. However, anecdotal information provided by service providers may indicate that the number of Latino seniors is on the rise. According to US Census data from 2006, only 2.7 percent of US-born Latinos and 5.2 percent of foreign-born Latinos were 65 or older in the entire Chicago metro region.
**Immigrant Status and Language**

According to the 2000 Census, there are more than 16,000 immigrants in the selected municipalities, comprising nearly 20 percent of the population. Immigrants comprise half the population of Stone Park, 35 percent of the population of Melrose Park, and nearly one in four residents of Northlake. While most of the population of Maywood and Bellwood report that they speak only English at home, only 20.7 percent of residents of Stone Park reported that they spoke only English at home. In addition, more than four in ten immigrants arrived to the United States between 1990 and 2000.

Nearly 69 percent of Latinos in the region are US citizens: 55.5 percent are US-born and 12.8 percent are naturalized. Nearly 59 percent of all Latinos in the region speak English well or very well and almost 15 percent speak only English.6

Between 2000 and 2006, however, the growth in the number of Spanish-speaking children in linguistically isolated households, where no one over the age of 14 speaks English very well, occurred only in the suburbs, an increase of 47 percent from 2000.7

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6 Ibid.


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**Table 6. Foreign Born and Ability to Speak English, 2000**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Melrose Park</th>
<th>Maywood</th>
<th>Bellwood</th>
<th>Stone Park</th>
<th>Northlake</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Foreign Born</td>
<td>8,195</td>
<td>1,946</td>
<td>1,256</td>
<td>2,571</td>
<td>2,903</td>
<td>16,871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Who Are Foreign Born</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Foreign-born Citizens</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>36.8</td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Population Who Speak Only English at Home</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>82.3</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>63.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Arriving 1990–2000</td>
<td>44.6</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>46.8</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>42.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census

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**Figure 5**

Percent Foreign Born Compared with Percent Latino in Selected Municipalities, 2000

Legend:
- **Percent Latino**
- **Percent Foreign Born**
According to 2000 census data, there are a total of 27,146 households in the selected municipalities. More than half of all households own their own home with the highest rates of homeownership reported in Northlake (77.2 percent). Slightly more than half of the households in Melrose Park own their home. For Latinos in the metropolitan region, 56 percent were homeowners in 2006.8 Like cities throughout the United States, the selected municipalities have also been impacted by the recent rise in foreclosures. According to the Woodstock Institute, the number of foreclosures in the first half of 2008 was 76.2 percent higher in Melrose Park than the foreclosures initiated during a similar period in 2007. That number was 19.2 percent greater in Bellwood and 36.9 percent greater in Maywood during the same period.9

The unemployment rate in 2000 in these areas ranged from a low of 3.7 percent in Northlake to a high of 7.5 percent in Maywood. Across the suburbs, Latinos experienced a 5.9 percent unemployment rate in 2006, an increase over the 4.8 percent they had in 2000.10

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**Table 7. Demographic Characteristics of Selected Municipalities, 2000**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Melrose Park</th>
<th>Maywood</th>
<th>Bellwood</th>
<th>Stone Park</th>
<th>Northlake</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Households</td>
<td>7,631</td>
<td>7,937</td>
<td>6,440</td>
<td>1,265</td>
<td>3,873</td>
<td>27,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Who Own a Home</td>
<td>54.7</td>
<td>62.8</td>
<td>76.3</td>
<td>60.6</td>
<td>77.2</td>
<td>65.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Unemployed</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>40,689</td>
<td>41,942</td>
<td>52,856</td>
<td>39,787</td>
<td>53,090</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Families Living in Poverty*</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Children Living in Poverty</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census

* In 2000 the poverty threshold for a family of four was $17,603.

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**Figure 6**
Percentage of Residents Who Own a Home in Selected Municipalities, 2000

- Northlake: 77.2%
- Stone Park: 66.6%
- Bellwood: 76.3%
- Maywood: 62.8%
- Melrose Park: 54.7%

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The median household income ranged from a low of $39,787 in Stone Park to a high of $53,090 in Northlake, according to 2000 Census data. The median household income for Latinos in Metropolitan Chicago Region was $49,303 in 2006.\textsuperscript{11}

In addition, 5.9 percent of families in Bellwood lived in poverty in 2000 compared with 11.6 percent of families in Stone Park. While only 7.1 percent of children in Northlake lived in poverty, twice that proportion of children in Maywood (14.3 percent) lived in poverty. Among Latinos in the suburbs, 13.3 percent lived in poverty in 2006 compared to 12.1 percent in 2000. Among Latino children living in poverty in the suburbs, the percentage climbs to 29.1 in 2006 compared to 24.8 percent in 2000.\textsuperscript{12}


\textsuperscript{12} “Socioeconomic Trends in the Chicago Metropolitan Area.” University of Notre Dame, Institute for Latino Studies, 2008.
Educational Attainment

Educational attainment among Latinos varies within the selected municipalities. According to the 2000 Census, 37 percent of Stone Park residents have completed less than the ninth grade; that number drops to only 6.4 percent for the residents of Bellwood. Over 25 percent of Maywood residents have not completed high school. Almost 12 percent of Bellwood residents have completed college while only 4 percent of Stone Park residents have completed college. While the overall graduation rate for Proviso East High School was 89 percent in 2007, the Latino graduation rate for Proviso East High School was only 68.8 percent in the same year.13

Overall, in the Chicago metropolitan region, 47 percent of US-born Latinos graduated from high school in 2006 and only 24 percent had completed college. Among foreign-born Latinos in the Region, 55 percent had less than a high school education in 2006.14

Latinos comprise a growing percentage of students in the selected school districts. In fact, 50 percent of all Latino school-age children and adolescents in Metropolitan Chicago live in the suburbs.15 According to Illinois Report Card data, while white and African American student enrollment declined between 2002 and 2007, the Latino population continued to rise, suggesting that new policies promoting the advancement and retention of this student population may need to be examined.

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15 US Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

### Table 8. Educational Attainment in Selected Municipalities, 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent Less than 9th Grade</th>
<th>Melrose Park</th>
<th>Maywood</th>
<th>Bellwood</th>
<th>Stone Park</th>
<th>Northlake</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Less than High School</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent High School Graduate or higher</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Bachelor’s Degree or higher</td>
<td>60.7</td>
<td>74.5</td>
<td>76.8</td>
<td>43.8</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>68.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** US Census Bureau, 2000 Census
### Table 9. School Enrollment in Selected Municipalities, 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Melrose Park</th>
<th>Maywood</th>
<th>Bellwood</th>
<th>Stone Park</th>
<th>Northlake</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursery School, Preschool</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>1,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>1,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary School (grades 1–8)</td>
<td>2,687</td>
<td>3,904</td>
<td>2,919</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>1,444</td>
<td>11,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School (grades 9–12)</td>
<td>1,244</td>
<td>2,034</td>
<td>1,544</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>5,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,763</td>
<td>7,195</td>
<td>5,394</td>
<td>1,297</td>
<td>2,410</td>
<td>21,059</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census

### Table 10. Student Performance at Selected Area Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Proviso East High School</th>
<th>West Leyden High School</th>
<th>East Leyden High School</th>
<th>State of Illinois</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduation rate</td>
<td>89.0%</td>
<td>84.6%</td>
<td>80.9%</td>
<td>85.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Graduation Rate</td>
<td>68.8%</td>
<td>76.4%</td>
<td>86.7%</td>
<td>73.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Dropout Rate</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT Composite Score</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Table 11. Percent Change in Student Enrollment in Select School Districts, 2002–2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Berkeley SD 87</th>
<th>Mannheim SD 83</th>
<th>Bellwood SD 88</th>
<th>Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview SD 89</th>
<th>Leyden CHSD 212</th>
<th>Proviso Twp HSD 209</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Enrollment</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>-4%</td>
<td>-14%</td>
<td>-9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>-56%</td>
<td>-42%</td>
<td>-57%</td>
<td>-54%</td>
<td>-12%</td>
<td>-26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>-27%</td>
<td>-41%</td>
<td>-23%</td>
<td>-26%</td>
<td>-4%</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited English Proficient Students</td>
<td>-29%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>-11%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>-45%</td>
<td>-33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 12. Numeric Change in Student Enrollment in Select School Districts, 2002–2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Enrollment</th>
<th>Berkeley SD 87</th>
<th>Mannheim SD 83</th>
<th>Bellwood SD 88 007</th>
<th>Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview SD 89</th>
<th>Leyden CHSD 212</th>
<th>Proviso Twp HSD 209</th>
<th>Total Change 2002–2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>1512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>-270</td>
<td>-30</td>
<td>-505</td>
<td>-945</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-1475</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Figure 10
Change in Student Population Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview SD 89, 2002–2007

Figure 11
Change in Student Population Proviso Twp HSD 209, 2002–2007

Community Efforts for Integration

The relatively rapid growth of Latinos and new immigrant communities in the suburbs may pose challenges to some municipalities and local institutions. However, some promising practices have evolved as more municipal governments, often the first point of contact for newcomers, are becoming active partners in the educational and economic integration of Latino communities. This section highlights a few of these practices garnered from individual interviews with decision-makers from suburban municipalities and institutions.

The Village of Bellwood
When a new family moves into Bellwood, they head to the village hall to open a water account and sign up for other village services. But once they enter the village hall, they receive a “Welcoming Packet” with a letter from Mayor Frank Pasquale informing them of the services available through the village with materials translated into Spanish. The services the village offers are extensive, including a community service department, which features a computer lab offering free computer training and internet services to residents, access to food and clothing for needy families, an on-site partnership with Benedictine College leading to an associate’s degree as well as scholarship assistance to college bound students.

Given the increase in the Latino population, Mayor Pasquale has integrated Spanish-speaking personnel in every department and hired more bilingual staff, according to Village spokesperson, Tina Alcaraz. In the last year the number of Latino police officers has increased from one to five.  

The Village of Melrose Park
Since taking office twelve years ago, Melrose Park Mayor Ron Serpico says he has worked to increase the employment of Latinos in key sectors and has substantially increased the number of full-time sworn Latino police officers. Further, Mayor Serpico recently established the Melrose Park Latino Advisory Council, a new initiative that aims to develop collaborative ways to meet the needs of village residents in the areas of youth services, safety, and immigration.

Triton College
In an effort to ensure students are prepared to enter college, Triton College developed an Early Assessment Program. Through this program Triton partners with local school districts to test high school juniors in the COMPASS test to assess students’ readiness in English and Math. The results of the test are shared with guidance counselors and students to best enable students to assess their strengths and weaknesses and plan for their senior year coursework by addressing the areas that require growth.

Triton College conceived of the program because many students enter their first year of college and are placed into developmental (non-college level) courses, which sometimes causes students to fall behind in their college careers by one to two semesters.

The service is offered free of charge and students are not required to commit to Triton College for their post-secondary careers. Parents are invited to attend workshops on financial aid, college transition and selection.

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16 Interview with Tina Alcaraz, 11/12/2008.
17 Interview with Mayor Ron Serpico, 12/8/2008.
18 Interview with Dr. Patricia Granados, 12/3/2008.
Beginning May 2008 the Community Alliance identified the following priority areas of concern for families and set goals and action steps to address these priority areas:

- Education
- Social Services
- Immigration
- Parental Involvement
- Youth Services and Safety

Other identified themes include:

- Leadership and Cultural Competency
- Job Training
- Housing

At subsequent meetings, co-chairs and committee members were asked to respond to the following questions to further identify action steps for these priority areas:

- What is your goal? What do you want to accomplish?
- Why is this an issue in your community? What is the context that is unique to your municipality and the people who live there?
- What is the issue or problem?
- What resources, programs, organizations already exist in the community to address this issue? Are there any other assets around this that can be utilized?
- What are the gaps? What are some of the ways to address the gaps?
- What can happen in the short-term (i.e., this year) with limited resources (money) and volunteers?
- What do you want to happen in the longer term (i.e., 2–3 years) with more resources?
- Who will do it?
- What resources are needed to get there in the short term and long-term?

Community Alliance members understood that in outlining their action steps for priority areas, short-term strategies would be accomplished during the first year with volunteer support and limited resources. Long-term strategies would require additional resources and would be achieved in the space of two to three years.

The priorities, strategies, and action steps were determined through a series of discussions among committee members, who shared their knowledge of the community and its resources to improve the quality of life for families in the targeted region.
**Education**  
**Goal:** To facilitate and support educational opportunities in the Latino community that increase educational achievement, reduce the high dropout rate, and increase the pursuit of postsecondary options for Latino students.

**Issues**  
Education is a concern for these municipalities because data indicates a large percentage of residents who have low levels of educational attainment. According to 2000 Census data, 39.3 percent of residents in Melrose Park had not completed high school. In Stone Park 56.2 percent of residents had less than a twelfth grade education. Only 85 Latinos in Stone Park and 71 Latinos in Maywood had completed a bachelor’s degree or higher as of the 2000 Census. While the high school drop out rate at Proviso East High School in Maywood is 6.4 percent, the chronic truancy rate is 39.8 percent.\(^{19}\) Chronic truancy is measured as the percentage of students who are absent 18 or more of the last 180 school days. A 2007 study by the Consortium on Chicago School Research found that regular attendance, particularly in the ninth grade year, was a key predictor of graduation from high school in four years. According to the study, only 20 percent of freshmen who missed 15 to 19 days of school per semester graduated high school in four years.\(^{20}\) As a result of its chronic truancy rate of nearly 40 percent, Proviso East High School students may face challenges in completing high school in four years. Triton College, the local community college serving these areas, reports 70 percent of their student body placing into developmental courses, which means these students are not academically prepared for college-level coursework.\(^{21}\) Members of the Education Committee remarked that many students drop out to assist their families with financial responsibilities and obtain work. As a result, a low number of youth are college bound. For

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\(^{21}\) Interview with Dr. Patricia Granados, President of Triton College, December 3, 2008.
those students who do not go onto college there are no vocational or technical programs offered in the high schools to assist students in considering careers. Rather than seeing the fact that students need to work as a detriment to pursuing their education, committee members stressed that educators should seek ways to develop programs that combine work and school, playing to the strength of the work ethic of families and the need for financial assistance.

Further, committee members voiced that more bilingual personnel are needed in area school districts to provide information and increase parental participation in decision making. Students and parents that are Spanish-speaking often do not know what the options for career or educational opportunities in this country are. Unfamiliar educational systems, cultural differences, and limited information often discourage parents from becoming the driving force behind students’ growth in education. This behavior is often interpreted as a lack of interest rather than a lack of information, comprehension, or orientation.

Existing Resources

• **Triton College:** Offers continuing education, adult education, and courses leading to an Associate’s degree. The college offers financial aid counseling, application assistance, a child care center, and job counseling for its students. Triton has also partnered with schools to provide Spanish classes for teachers in Northlake, Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview School District 89, and Bellwood School District 88 in an effort to improve communication with Spanish-speaking parents. Further, Triton College has been meeting with school superintendents and mayors of municipalities it serves in an effort to identify strategies to address the education gap in these municipalities.

• **Nuevos Horizontes/Triton College Community Center:** Offers college admission and financial aid workshops for parents in Spanish at least once each semester. A college counselor, with interpreting services, is available at Nuevos Horizontes several times throughout the year for individual or group counseling service. Nuevos Horizontes also partners with other community organizations, school districts, and others to provide information workshops for parents and the general community on different topics including the pursuit of higher education. Nuevos Horizontes also provides assistance with interpretation of academic credentials for students who have completed high school education in other countries and seek admittance to Triton.

• **Triton Achievement Academy, Department of Continuing Education, Triton College:** Assists high school students on their path to college. TAA provides academic and study-skills activities designed to build the academic skills, motivation, and self-confidence necessary for success in college. The TAA skill tracks assist students to perform better in their high school classes by providing instruction in writing, math, and science fundamentals. Reading is emphasized throughout the program. The skill tracks are divided into three-week, subject-intensive sections led by experienced instructors. At the conclusion of the program students will have a greater chance of successfully completing college entrance examinations or entry into advanced placement high school classes.
• **Westlake Hospital**: Offers a scholarship program for high school juniors and seniors interested in healthcare careers. Students are assigned a mentor, receive job training, and are eligible to receive a full-tuition scholarship at Triton College to pursue a health-related career. Westlake also offers a Basic Certified Nurse Assistants (CNA) Program consisting of 94 hours of theory and 49 hours of clinical instruction, preparing successful candidates for job opportunities as a CNA in various health care agencies including Long Term Care, Home Health and Skilled Nursing facilities.

  • **Veteran’s Park District**: Offers a preschool program that emphasizes the learning process to prepare children for future education. Activities include problem solving, creativity, self-expression, and social skills. Children are introduced to shapes, colors, numbers, the alphabet, seasonal data, math concepts, and science through a variety of activities, games and music. Children work on printing, scissor skills, and other fine motor skills. Exercise and outdoor play are encouraged.

**Gaps in Services**

  • **Academically rich programs**: Provide, strengthen, and support rich, high quality transitional bilingual programs in the early pre-K–3 grades. Provide ESL to all English Language Learners (ELL). Provide tutoring support services by utilizing funds such as NCLB. Raise student reading, math, and science scores to meet or exceed ISBE academic standards.

  • **Summer bridge programs**: Develop pre-K, seventh, eighth grade, and college summer bridge preparation programs. At each point, planning and collaborations should include parents, elementary, high school and college personnel. Each program must have a strong parent information component, along with academic support services.

  • **School/work programs**: Create innovative school/work programs for students who must work to help their families. The knowledge, skills, and abilities gained in the work place should be valued, strengthened, integrated, optimized, and accredited. Develop dual enrollment and/or high school completion programs for working students. Collaborate with community agencies, colleges, and state work development centers. Provide mentoring and hands-on coaching to strengthen and optimize work skills learned. Provide graduation credit for work-related experience.

  • **Student future planning**: Provide future planning workshops and seminars for students. These could focus on future educational planning, school/work programs, as well as drop out, pregnancy, and gang prevention strategies for both genders beginning, as appropriate, in the middle grades.

  • **School building access**: Open school buildings beyond school hours. Create partnerships with community agencies. Bring community information and resources locally to parents within walking distance.

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**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:**

**Westlake Hospital**

Programs that bridge the gap between school and work are needed, according to education committee members, in order to encourage more students to complete their studies and pursue meaningful job opportunities in growing sectors of the economy. Locally, Westlake Hospital has created inroads to select students to receive training in the growing health care field allowing students to explore these career opportunities while still in high school.

Westlake Hospital offers a scholarship program for juniors and seniors interested in healthcare careers. Approximately 20 students are accepted into the program. Students receive hands-on experience interacting and observing health care professionals. Mentors are assigned to these students and during the summer, they receive a stipend to work at Westlake Hospital to further their growth and interest. The experience continues into their senior year followed by two full years of a scholarship to Triton College that covers tuition and books in a health care field.
distance of their own schools. Provide ESL and adult basic and continuing education classes.

- **Parent information workshops**: Provide future planning workshops and seminars. These could focus on future educational planning, school/work programs, drop out, pregnancy, and gang prevention strategies. Parents’ rights information, proof of residency awareness, special education, IEP programming, transportation and related services can be included as well.

- **Shortage of bilingual staff**: Hire bilingual/bicultural front line clerical staff, community liaisons, teachers, guidance counselors and principals.

- **Adequate professional development**: Strengthen school and Intermediate Service Center (ISC) professional development partnership. Build school staff capacity as it relates to the academic achievement of Latino students and parental involvement.

### Strategies to Address Gaps

- Partner with existing coalitions of school superintendents, mayors, and college administrators to present the Melrose Park Community Alliance Report findings.
  - Identify their programs and resources.
  - Formally assess current programs, identify areas for improvement, barriers that impact Latino students and their parents, improve outreach strategies and facilitate workable solutions.

- Commission research on bilingual/bicultural personnel at school and district level.

### Short-term Action Steps

- Participate in meetings with Maywood, Melrose, Bellwood, Stone Park, and Northlake school district boards, mayors, Intermediate Service Center (ISC), and college administration to present findings of Community Alliance Report.
  - Review school district handbooks, district, and school report cards, identify gaps.
  - Review and support school improvement efforts as they relate to Latinos.
  - Encourage school districts work effectively with their ISC, their professional development provider, in identifying best practices and instructional models that can lead to meeting and exceeding state academic standards.
  - Identify what is in place and what short-term cost-effective improvements can be implemented quickly and easily.
    - Establish a vocational advisory committee with corporate partners.
    - Encourage the hiring of bilingual counselors, teachers, and educational professionals.
    - Monitor efforts as they relate to professional development, parental informational programming, vocational advisory committee, and bilingual hiring.
    - Collaborate with community agencies, colleges, and Illinois WorkNet to strengthen employment training opportunities, provide mentoring and coaching to optimize work skills learned.

### Long-term Strategies

- Assure school districts are improving services by monitoring for the above.
  - Work with the Intermediate Service Center and the Illinois Resource Center toward culturally appropriate professional development offerings and innovative best practices that can positively affect Latino educational achievement.
  - On an annual basis, the Melrose Park Community Alliance can publish and disseminate a summation report based on ISBE data demonstrating to the community the effectiveness of schools in their efforts in increasing academic achievement and reducing the Latino dropout rate.
**Immigration**

Goal: To strengthen and enhance the lives of immigrants living in Proviso Township through education efforts related to immigration law and immigrant rights.

**Issues**

High concentrations of immigrants live in Proviso Township. According to the 2000 Census, 16,000 immigrants live in the identified communities, many of whom arrived to the United States between 1990 and 2000. A number of immigrants lack legal immigration status and are therefore subject to deportation if discovered. Most are law-abiding residents who left their country of origin to create a better life for their families and for whom a legal path to citizenship does not currently exist because of an outdated US legal immigration policy. Mixed-status households (parents are undocumented and children are born in the United States) present another set of challenges for families who are at risk of deportation.

The ethnic composition of the community has changed over the years and there is a demonstrated lack of understanding of the complexity of immigration law and immigrant rights. Immigrants, wary of the recent increased federal enforcement, are fearful of local government and public safety officials, increasing the risk of unreported crime in the area. Local residents may also be worried about the changing dynamics of their community and worried about the economic impact of these changes, a topic of great concern given the recent downturn in the economy. The changes in these communities require education and outreach in order to minimize conflict, prevent misunderstandings, and foster a welcoming environment for immigrants who can provide substantial economic benefit to the local communities. There are currently few such educational opportunities in place. In addition, the lack of low-cost, non-profit legal immigration service providers in the area, or ones that specifically take removal cases, leaves immigrants susceptible to fraudulent or unauthorized service providers.

**Existing Resources**

- **Catholic Charities Board of Immigration Appeal (BIA):** Accredited legal immigration service provider (non-removal) located in Cicero. Services are available to residents of Proviso Township and the Agency is available to provide outreach to the community.
- **Catholic Churches:** Our Lady of Mt. Carmel/St. Charles Borromeo, Fr. Claudio Holzer, Pastor. Each Parish offers space for programming and outreach, and hosts/advertises events. Further, these parishes have played a central role in organizing for immigrant rights, partnering with the Illinois Coalition and Immigrant and Refugee Rights to host naturalization workshops and referrals to legal nights at Illinois Welcoming Center.
- **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC):** Located in Chicago, but open to providing trainings in the area.
- **Community Alliance:** Network of providers that can assist in promoting activities coordinated by the Immigration Committee.
- **DePaul University Legal Clinic:** Located in Chicago, but provides training and support for
community organizations and education to the community at large

- **Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights**: Advocacy at the state and federal levels for immigration reform and pro-immigrant policy. Provides technical assistance and oversees the New Americans Initiative.

- **Illinois Welcoming Center**: Referrals to legal immigration service providers, hosts legal immigration service provider on a monthly basis

- **National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)**: Provides legal immigration consultation and intake at the Illinois Welcoming Center on a monthly basis.

- **Proyecto de Acción de los Suburbios del Oeste (PASO)/West Suburban Action Project**: Community organization founded by five local faith institutions. PASO will engage local community members from these institutions to address issues that affect them directly through leadership development, civic participation, community organizing and community education.

- **Community residents** who have participated in the “Train the Trainer” program for Know Your Rights Presentations

**Gaps in Services**

- **Education efforts**: To the immigrant community (immigration law series/regularly scheduled Know Your Rights presentations and trainings); to the community at large (law enforcement, service providers, educators).

- **Direct services**: Identify providers of affordable legal immigration services and work to create a path for community residents to access affordable immigration legal services.

- **Advocacy and organizing**: Develop leadership capacity of immigrants to speak out and take action on issues impacting their lives (i.e., immigration reform).

**Strategies to Address the Gaps**

- Hold information forums, conduct Know Your Rights presentations and community education for immigrant community (community partners, DePaul Legal Clinic, PASO/West Suburban Action Project).

- Sponsor educational training for law enforcement/local government (CLINIC).

- Leadership development of community residents (local churches through PASO and ICIRR).

- Encourage legislation and advocacy at the local, state, and federal level that promote immigrant integration (Immigration Committee members, Community Alliance, Community residents, PASO/West Suburban Action Project, ICIRR).

**Short-term Action Steps**

- Know Your Rights presentations (three to four)
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:
National Immigrant Justice Center and the Illinois Welcoming Center

The National Immigrant Justice Center is a not-for-profit organization that focuses on legal assistance for immigration cases at free or low cost in Melrose Park in partnership with the Illinois Welcoming Center. Although these services are limited to once a month, the response has been overwhelming. There is no legal immigration clinic in the Proviso Township vicinity, making the National Immigrant Justice Center to be the primary legal assistance agency with trained lawyers in this area. Co-location of services has proven to be a good model for a low-income community that lacks reliable transportation and has a high need for Spanish-speaking services.

Issues
With the growth of the region’s Latino community, community alliance members identified that there is a growing need for bilingual and bicultural services, particularly for immigrants. While the need for services extends to all basic human services, Community Alliance members have prioritized services in the following sectors: medical access, substance abuse, mental health, senior services, disabilities, and domestic violence.

The rationale for these particular services is tied to population trends. The municipalities identified in this report have high concentrations of Latinos, who are more likely to need access to health insurance. A 2002 study of the Gilead Outreach and Referral Center found that 48 percent of non-citizen Latinos in Illinois are uninsured, which is four times the rate of whites. Immigrants are two-and-a-half times more likely to be uninsured than the native born and roughly a third of Latinos is without health insurance. Some local hospitals have responded to the growing trends. Westlake Hospital, for instance, offers on-site interpretation at its hospital to non-English speakers. Yet despite these forward movements, some unaddressed needs remain.

Services in substance abuse are important in this community because they help deter high crime rates, prevent job loss, and maintain safe neighborhoods. While crime rates overall have gone down in recent years in Melrose Park, drug crime arrest rates increased from 2004 to 2005 by 62 percent in Melrose Park according to police department data.

Mental health services in these municipalities remain a concern for Community Alliance members, particularly bilingual mental health services. While the number of licensed Spanish-speaking mental health professionals in Illinois is unknown, “there are only 29 Hispanic mental health professionals for every 100,000 Hispanics in the United States, compared to 173 non-Hispanic white providers.”

22 ICIRR, Illinois is Home, p. 18.
**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:**
The Illinois Welcoming Center

The Illinois Welcoming Center opened in July 2007 to increase the number of immigrants and refugees that have access to state services. In addition, a new comprehensive service intake model has been developed to help expedite services while maintaining and ensuring quality. The Center has bilingual staff and can access 35 languages. It has alternative office hours, including early evening and Saturday hours. The Center is designed to be a model partnership among government, faith-based, and community-based organizations.

- Outreach Office at Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- Has access to a language bank of 35 languages.
- Has served over 4,000 people directly in a year and a half, doubling its own expectations.
- Has reached out to over 8,000 people in multiple areas.
- Developed a model to work with nine state agencies to bring varied services to suburban locations.
- Collaborates with 30 plus local community organizations in Proviso Township.
- Has created “Welcoming Days” to serve people in new emerging immigrant communities throughout the state.
- Co-locators include: Proviso Leyden Community Center Action, Mujeres Latinas en Acción, Sarah’s Inn, Heartland Alliance, South Suburban Access, West Suburban Senior Services Inc, Triton College.
- Monthly visits for legal consultation from the National Immigrant Justice Center
- Breast and Cervical Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness Month Workshops.
- Assisted in the development of the Community Alliance organization to fully integrate community services.
- One of seven sites for piloting Upwardly Global, Foreign Credentials workshop
- Created a Family/Women’s support group club on two days a week.

per 100,000.”

Committee members noted the stigma often associated with seeking mental health services and maintained that some mental health needs go untreated due to a lack of understanding of these illnesses. National studies indicate that the rate of mental health illnesses for Latinos is similar to that of non-Hispanic whites. However, US-born Mexicans have higher rates of mental health illnesses than Mexican immigrants who have been here less than thirteen years. Further, Latino youth experience higher rates of depression and drug use relative to non-Hispanic white youth. According to Dr. Daniel B. Martinez, Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, “In the Chicago area, 75–80 percent of youth will have direct experience with domestic violence, witness stabbings, shootings or other violent events. Of these, up to one-third will suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, which means these youth will have difficulty with concentration and hyper-arousal. This means if these issues are not addressed, Latinos will continue lagging further behind in the economic strata. Less than 20 percent of Latinos needing mental health services will receive them.”

A suburban community, unlike an urban community, does not provide an accessible social community for seniors. Services traditionally provided in senior centers are not easily accessible due to transportation limitations and the lack of pedestrian walkways. These environmental factors compounded with monolingual culture create intense social isolation for many seniors in suburban settings. The identified social services are important to those Latinos currently identified as seniors as well as those who will be seniors in the next five years—in greater numbers than any other immigrant group.

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25 Ibid.
26 Ibid. Interview with Dr. Daniel B. Martinez, May 15, 2009.
27 Ibid.
28 Interview with Dr. Daniel B. Martinez, May 15, 2009.
Existing Resources

- **Medical access:** Westlake Hospital, Westlake Medical Associates, Access Community Health Network, Access to Care
- **Substance abuse:** Healthcare Alternative Systems (HAS), Pilsen Wellness Center, Proviso Leyden Council for Community Action (PLCCA)
- **Mental Health:** Resurrection ProCare Centro de Salud Familiar.
- **Proviso Township Mental Health Commission:** the mission of the Proviso Township Mental Health Commission shall be to provide financial assistance in the form of annual or special grants for operating purposes from funds obtained by assessment of annual tax on real property to agencies involved in providing prevention or treatment services to township residents in the areas of mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorder.

- **Senior Services:** West Suburban Senior Services, Melrose Park Senior Center, AgeOptions, Oro Latino Network
- **Disabilities:** Community Support Services, Proviso Township Mental Health Commission (PTMHC), Suburban Access, Inc., Aspire, Seguin, Oak Leyden Developmental Services, Inc., Helping Hand Center, La Voz Latina (DHS-DRS), The Answer, Inc.
- **Domestic Violence:** Sarah’s Inn, Mujeres Latinas en Acción

Gaps in Services

**Medical Access**

- Lack of affordable healthcare, preventable chronic illnesses go untreated
- Lack of primary care services, inappropriate use of emergency rooms
- Poor response of health care organizations to language barriers using informal interpreters or untrained medical interpreters.
- Low awareness of affordable primary care sites in Proviso
- High teenage pregnancy rate. As of 2006, teenage pregnancies in suburban Cook County were 33,481.29
  - Develop awareness of disease prevention and healthy eating

**Substance Abuse**

- Insufficient bilingual services for prevention and awareness
- Cultural barriers to services and understanding of substance abuse
- Lack of transportation to get to and from treatment
- Lack of specialized training counseling

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29 http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0506.htm
Mental Health
- Insufficient Spanish-speaking mental health services
  - Mental health services have not kept up with the growth in Spanish-speaking population in the suburbs
  - Lack of understanding towards mental health problems
  - Breaking down the stigma attached to mental health issues

Senior Services
- Current senior services do not address the needs of Latino senior population, lack of bilingual/bicultural services for seniors
  - Lack of bilingual and multicultural programs and activities for Latino seniors
    - Home care services
    - Drop-in centers
    - Wellness centers
    - Senior clubs
    - Housing
  - Access to transportation

Disabilities
- Services for children/families with disabilities, especially Latino families
  - Need for adequate training of front-line staff to communicate with disabled community
  - Need improved awareness of post–high school vocational and rehabilitation resources
  - Breaking down stigmas associated with disabilities
  - Development of adequate specialized employment and training opportunities
  - Families need information, linkage, resources and referrals for family support
  - Need additional funding for Triton College’s Employment Program for people with disabilities
  - Schools need support with inclusion for kids with IEP’s (Individual Education Plans) and parents need help with the IEP process.
  - Need bilingual/bicultural support group, programs in the community
  - Transition is a top need, from early Intervention to early childhood special education programs and from HS to adult programs.

Domestic Violence
- Insufficient Spanish-speaking domestic violence programs in the Proviso Township to meet growing need for services
  - Need improved access to bilingual counseling
  - No shelter homes for families
  - No access to transition homes for single moms
  - Develop awareness concerning domestic violence
  - Breaking the cycle of domestic violence
  - Lack of emergency funding for survivors

Strategies to Address Gaps
Medical Access
- Create awareness of affordable primary care sites in Proviso and provide linkage
  - Develop awareness of disease prevention and healthy eating
  - Encourage medical interpreter technique training (language assessment tests and interpreting techniques course)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:
Spanish Senior Services and the Illinois Welcoming Center
The Illinois Welcoming Center (IWC) served senior citizens by advocating on behalf of clients with the Social Security Administration, translating documents, and making referrals to the Illinois Department on Aging. Through these client visits, IWC staff realized the need for additional recreational and supportive services for the growing Latino senior population.

The IWC developed partnerships with community-based organizations serving Latino seniors and brought the services of Casa Central, a Chicago-based social service agency, to Melrose Park on a pilot basis in the Spring of 2008 to offer health and wellness workshops, physical fitness modules, and computer classes for seniors. Local seniors participated in weekly sessions with Casa Central staff.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:
Centro de Salud Familiar/Resurrection
Behavioral Health

Centro has been meeting the mental health needs of the Latino community in Proviso Township since the early 1980s, offering substance abuse counseling; individual, couples and family therapy; and psychiatric services in Spanish.

The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) is one of many programs facilitated by Centro staff. The SFP is designed to reduce problem and delinquent behavior in children, improve school performance and reduce teenage chemical dependency. The program provides training for the entire family where parents and children (ages 6–12 years) meet separately with Resurrection Behavioral Health group leaders and children are encouraged to resist peer pressure, comply with parental rules, and better understand their feelings and anger issues. At the same time the parents are taught how to improve their parenting, communication and problem-solving skills, and how to encourage desired behaviors in their children. When parents and children reunite in a combined session, they engage in typical family activities where they begin practicing their newly learned skills.

The SFP is offered twice a year to as many as 15-20 families at a time and is only offered in Spanish to Proviso Township families. The Strengthening Families Program is funded by the Proviso Township Mental Health Commission.

Follow up to poor outcomes of health screenings from health fairs
- Develop “promotoras de salud” program, a neighbor-to-neighbor concept of health guidance
- Create bilingual student allied health care mentorship programs to encourage more bilingual health professionals from community

Substance Abuse
- Develop drug series workshops to educate the youth about consequences of drug use and educate parents on drug-use behaviors
- Encourage family involvement in individuals’ treatment (e.g., family night sessions)
- Substance abuse agencies working with mental health agencies to provide proper care for dual diagnosis.
- Create alumni programs to help monitor progress after completion of treatment
- Develop relationships with the police department because they are the first to see “the potential client”

Mental Health
- Develop awareness about mental health to break down the stigma
- Create awareness of affordable mental health sites in Proviso and provide linkage
- Provide training staff to be biculturally correct when providing services in Spanish
- Approach agencies that are already licensed to inform them of needs

Senior Services
- Create services and programs specifically geared for Latino seniors.
- Develop an agency to provide bilingual and multicultural programs for Latino seniors
- Assess senior demographics: living arrangements, income, job status, age. Some of this information can be gathered through focus groups and surveys.
- Develop best practices for working with senior Latino community in culturally relevant settings.

Disabilities
- Educate staff to be culturally sensitive through staffing and trainings
- Educate the community while doing outreach services so they feel comfortable
- Hire bilingual/bicultural personnel for disability outreach for our community
- Work with legislators on implementing the Illinois Blueprint for System Redesign for people with disabilities to improve access for Latinos
- Begin bilingual/bicultural parent support groups
- Work with Progress Center for Independent Living to bring resources to our community
Domestic Violence
- Create new domestic violence programs in Proviso Township that can provide bilingual services
- Ensure provision of bilingual counseling for domestic violence
- Build shelter for families in domestic violence
- Generate access to transitional housing for families in domestic violence

Short-term Action Steps
- Medical Access: Continue free screening, health fairs, walkathon
- Substance Abuse: Limited direct services, educational series about treatment options
- Mental Health: Continue providing group and individual sessions, health fairs, linkages
- Senior Services: Outreach and awareness, collaboration of agencies in order to serve this population, further understanding of senior demographics, surveys and focus groups, development of senior services for Latinos within the community
- Disabilities: Continue developing workshops to educate the community, linkages
- Domestic Violence: DV educational series, hotline number

Long-term Strategies
- Bring in other agencies with expertise in underserved areas or explore collaborative opportunities so current agencies can expand and help service areas that are in demand.
- Continuing collaboration among community agencies, churches, schools to address service needs.
- Become a leader in addressing bilingual and bicultural needs for Latino services in suburban communities by having a comprehensive pool of resources and staff dedicated to serving this demographic.
- Create a demonstration model for use in other suburban communities with high immigrant populations.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:
The Resurrection Project and Housing Services
In January 2009 The Resurrection Project (TRP) made a commitment to open an office in Melrose Park to provide financial services for the community. TRP has placed a financial counselor in the Community Center at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel to help families dealing with the possibility of losing their homes to foreclosure. TRP opened in the early 1990s and although it has mostly operated in Chicago, Executive Director Raul Raymundo understands the huge need for TRP’s services in the suburban communities most immigrants now call home. TRP was founded with a mission to build relationships and challenge people to act on their faith and values to create healthy communities through organizing, education, and community development. TRP still works alongside residents to create healthy communities through vehicles like affordable housing, financial literacy, and promoting access to education and health care.

Parental Participation
Goal: To increase parental participation in school and community activities and to involve parents as active leaders in their children’s lives.

Issues
Community alliance members expressed that Spanish-speaking parents are often perceived as barriers rather than assets to their children’s ongoing development. There are minimal meaningful opportunities for parental involvement in school during school hours, after school or on weekends. There are no existing parent resource centers which develop parent-driven programs and mentoring and support opportunities. Often immigrant parents report feeling intimidated because they have limited formal education, they experience language barriers, and they do not understand the educational system in the United States. Parents have reported that they lack a space for their own educational growth and development.
Existing Resources

- Monthly parent workshops hosted at the school district as mandated under No Child Left Behind Act.
- Triton College adult education courses offer continuing education opportunities in GED, ESL, and vocational and technical courses.
- Monthly parent workshops at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Charles Borromeo.
- Weekly book clubs at the Illinois Welcoming Center and family reading and cultural nights which promote positive family interaction.
- Existing parent committee for school district as mandated under No Child Left Behind Act.

Gaps in Services

- Lack of meaningful child- and parent-focused programs
- Limited understanding of family cultural assets
- Few bilingual/bicultural staff at a leadership level district-wide to be seen as a resource and an advocate for these issues
- Lack of self-development programs

Strategies to Address Gaps

- Open parent resource centers within the schools staffed by part-time parent coordinator.
- Create a “Maestros de la Comunidad” parent involvement model, designed to foster mentoring relationships between parents.
- Demonstrate a culture of parent leadership to counter the sense among some parents that they lack these assets.
- Develop a forum for exchange between teachers and parents about shared responsibility, expectations, goal sharing, and increased student success.

Short-term Action Steps

- Increase the number of opportunities for parents to get involved in the school.
- Create community-wide family reading nights for Spanish speakers.
- Cultivate relationships and forums between teachers and parents to exchange goals for student success.
- Create regular activities in school for parent coffees, workshops, literacy activities they can do with their children.

Long-term Strategies

- Foster a culture of success for all children in Proviso Township through supportive parents.
- Create opportunities for parents to understand the US educational system and college-entry requirements early on to promote college-bound youth.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: Melrose Park Police and Domestic Violence

In fall 2008 the Melrose Park Department decided to follow up with a community recommendation to have officers start being trained on domestic violence issues. In the first cycle six male officers were trained at Triton College and received a certificate for the training. In addition, the department houses a female social worker that helps with the intake process.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: Bilingual and Culturally Relevant Practices

Westlake Hospital demonstrates a commitment to the community it serves by providing services that employ cultural and linguistic best-practices to patients, family, visitors and hospital personnel with limited English proficiency. In response to the growing number of Spanish-speaking patients, Westlake implemented a Medical Interpreter and Community Services Department in 2000. Staffed by highly skilled trained interpreters who are proficient in medical interpreting techniques, the Medical Interpreter and Community Services Department helps Westlake to ensure accuracy of care, patient confidentiality, and provides a necessary cultural link to the community. In addition, Westlake has made a concerted effort to contribute towards building a healthy community by partnering with its surrounding community organizations to offer free health screenings, obesity and nutrition classes for children and many other disease prevention classes. All community programs are offered in English and Spanish.
Youth Services and Safety

Goal: To seek avenues to provide more youth recreational activities so that children can grow in a safe and healthy environment.

Issues

Members of the Youth Services and Safety Committee indicated that existing recreational activities are underutilized by Latino families in the region. Anecdotal information obtained by the committee indicates families are not aware of the programs offered in the schools, churches, and park districts that can help them keep their children occupied in a positive atmosphere and that may influence them to stay in school. Committee members noted that because parents work long hours or hold several jobs, it is often hard to reach them. In addition, committee members noted that most of the outreach and marketing materials for the programs are only available in English.

As a result of limited access to recreational activities, youth can become involved in gang activity or other delinquent behavior. According to Community Alliance members, there are nine active gang sets in Melrose Park, each targeting youth for recruitment. Committee members believe youth join these gangs in an effort to be recognized as powerful, suggesting the need for alternative paths to youth leadership in which youth feel recognized. Another issue the committee notes is that the lack of mentors and after school programs in certain schools.

Existing Resources

- Veterans Park District Recreational Programs and Camps: Veteran's Park District offers a variety of recreational programs including sports, performing arts, and clubs for teens. However, their outreach materials and publications are only published in English. Officials for the Veteran's Park District have indicated they would like to begin publishing materials in other languages, including Spanish.
- Churches: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church and St. Charles Borromeo have two youth groups, one for young adults and another for adolescents.
- The Civic Center: The Civic Center and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel partner to sponsor a youth soccer league. The program operates year-round with 20 teams, with 15 members each, and range in age from 4 to 19 years old.
- Casa Italia is a cultural center for Italians but they offer their space for recreational activities for all youth including soccer leagues.

Gaps in Services

- Lack of youth mentoring programs
- Lack of identifiable role models
- Need for more services that address teenage pregnancy, drug use, and gangs
- Lack of community between parents and teenagers
- No after-school, Saturday, or summer programs for youth
- No common language leading to isolation of English language learners

Strategies to Address Gaps

In order for the youth to participate meaningfully in activities, youth recreation committee members stressed that communication with parents is key. Part of this effort requires educating the parents as to why it is important that their children remain active in a positive setting. The youth recreation committee felt it was necessary to work with the Parental Participation Committee to reach the children.

Further, since some programs have been conducting their outreach in English, the Youth Services and Safety committee would like to develop an outreach committee within the Community Alliance to meet with existing organizations in the community and effectively reach out to families for their participation in youth recreation activities and youth groups. A first step would be to meet...
with park district, identify programs, learn about the different opportunities and develop an effective outreach and marketing strategy to involve more families in these programs.

Other strategies include:
- Hold monthly activity with parents and offer them mentoring opportunities, especially those parents of youth involved in soccer leagues.
- Develop Saturday/summer programs.
- Provide affordable youth recreational activities for all age groups.

Short-term Action Steps
- Create a community calendar for youth services.
- Request funding for summer jobs programming for youth.
- Host a youth summit, youth roundtable, and focus groups to engage youth in planning for community-wide programming.
- Develop an assessment tool to determine existing recreational resources in the community and effectively reach out to families for their participation in youth recreation activities.
- Meet with park district, identify programs, learn about the different opportunities, and develop an effective outreach and marketing strategy to involve more families in these programs.

Long-term Strategies
- Cultivate more comprehensive youth programs.
  - Job training/placement as a deterrent to gang activity
  - Gang prevention
  - Substance abuse prevention
  - Mentoring
- Create volunteer opportunities or mentor programs.
- Expand affordable youth recreational activities for all age groups.

Successful Programs Suggested as Possible Models
- Community Alliance—monthly meetings since August 16, 2007
- Community Publication—over 40 community-based organizations participate.
- Collaborative grant writing, NSP Ad-hoc community group
- Senior Services for Latinos (Illinois Welcoming Center and St. Charles Borromeo)
- Breast and Cervical Cancer screenings (West Lake Hospital)
- Disabled and Dislocated Workers Training Program (Triton College)
- Know your Rights Training (Bellwood, Stone Park, and Melrose Park)
- Train the Trainer
- Flexible Adult Education classes at community churches
Appendix A: Partner Agencies

Community Alliance
What is the Community Alliance? It is a collaboration of community-based organizations, local governments, schools, community members and churches working together for the betterment of their community in Melrose Park and the immediate surrounding towns of Bellwood, Maywood, and Stone Park.

Our mission:
To work together to streamline services and resources for the community in social services, education, parent involvement, immigration, youth services, and safety.

Vision:
We will work together for the creation and sustainability of a thriving community.

Our Key Committees:
- Social Services
- Education
- Youth, Recreation and Sports
- Immigration
- Parent Involvement

Committee Chairs:
Services: Sixto Garcia and Dolores Tapia
Education: Elsa Figueroa and Elizabeth Perez Lopez
Youth Recreation and Sports: Evelyn Giron and Daniel Ramirez
Immigration: Dalia Rocotello and Yesenia Sanchez
Parent Involvement: Fr. Claudio Holzer, Dorelia Rivera, and Silvia Villa

The Illinois Welcoming Center
The Illinois Welcoming Center (IWC) was developed as a means to centralize the delivery of services, avoid duplication of services, and assist immigrants and refugees in the process of integrating into life in the United States.

The IWC’s innovative model eliminates systemic barriers that immigrants may face in approaching state services. The IWC changes the way state services are delivered, not focusing on a discrete set of programs available from different state agencies but rather providing a holistic model which is a one-stop center where immigrants and refugees may access quality services from multiple state agencies and community providers in one location.

The IWC staff performs a comprehensive assessment to identify the barriers the customer may face. This allows for the Welcoming Center staff to work with the customer in providing services to meet their needs. If a customer needs help with food, cash, medical assistance, adult or continuing education, mental health, or any other type of service, the IWC staff assists the customer in completion of applications.

The center is managed by the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) with oversight by the Governor’s Office of New Americans Policy and Advocacy. The Welcoming Center is a multi-agency collaborative that includes active participation from these community agencies: Department of Human Services, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Department of Employment Security, Healthcare and Family Services, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Aging, the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Department of Public Health. The success of the center is directly related to the quality of collaboration among the state agencies, local support, and community-based organizations.
**Vision**
Every immigrant has the tools to quickly integrate into Illinois’ communities.

**Mission**
To provide immigrant and refugee individuals and families with an array of services, information, programs, and classes to assist in their path towards successful integration to the state, thereby creating self-sustaining and thriving communities.

**State Agency Partners**

**Illinois State Agency Partners**
- DHS – Department of Human Services
- ICCB – Illinois Community College Board
- ISBE – Illinois State Board of Education
- DCEO – Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- DPH – Department of Public Health
- DES – Department of Employment Security
- DCFS – Department of Children and Family Services
- DoA – Department on Aging
- HFS – Healthcare and Family Services
### Table 13. Student Demographics, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Berkeley SD 87</th>
<th>Mannheim SD 83</th>
<th>Bellwood SD 88</th>
<th>Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview SD 89</th>
<th>Leyden CHSD 212</th>
<th>Proviso Twp HSD 209</th>
<th>State of Illinois</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Enrollment</strong></td>
<td>2,855</td>
<td>2,707</td>
<td>2,738</td>
<td>5,538</td>
<td>3,501</td>
<td>4,942</td>
<td>2,077,856</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Percent White</strong></td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>54.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent Latino</strong></td>
<td>61.9%</td>
<td>68.8%</td>
<td>36.3%</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>46.0%</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent African American</strong></td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>61.7%</td>
<td>49.1%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Limited English Proficient Students</strong></td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low-income Students</strong></td>
<td>60.7%</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
<td>75.6%</td>
<td>78.7%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
<td>40.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mobility Rate</strong></td>
<td>33.4%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chronic Truancy Rate</strong></td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Table 14. Teacher Demographics, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Berkeley SD 87</th>
<th>Mannheim SD 83</th>
<th>Bellwood SD 88</th>
<th>Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview SD 89</th>
<th>Leyden CHSD 212</th>
<th>Proviso Twp HSD 209</th>
<th>State of Illinois</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Number of Teachers</strong></td>
<td>175</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>127,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent White</strong></td>
<td>85.5%</td>
<td>92.0%</td>
<td>63.5%</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
<td>91.1%</td>
<td>72.9%</td>
<td>85.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent Latino</strong></td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent African American</strong></td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student-to-Teacher Ratio</strong></td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>18.8 (elementary and secondary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Years of Experience</strong></td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teachers with Bachelor's Degrees</strong></td>
<td>56.7%</td>
<td>55.5%</td>
<td>60.6%</td>
<td>70.8%</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teachers with Master's and above</strong></td>
<td>43.3%</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>63.2%</td>
<td>66.5%</td>
<td>52.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ISAT Results for Bellwood School District 88
(percentage of 8th grade students meeting or exceeding state standards, 2007)

![Bar Chart for Bellwood School District 88]


### ISAT Results for Berkeley School District 87
(percentage of 8th grade students meeting or exceeding state standards, 2007)

![Bar Chart for Berkeley School District 87]


### ISAT Results for Mannheim School District 83
(percentage of 8th grade students meeting or exceeding state standards, 2007)

![Bar Chart for Mannheim School District 83]

School District: Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview School District 89
Address: 906 W. Walton Street
Melrose Park, IL 60160
Phone Number: (708) 450-2460
Grades Served: Pre-kindergarten–8th
Number of Students: 5,538
Number of Schools: 10 (Emerson, Garfield, Jane Addams, Irving, Lexington, Lincoln, Melrose Park, Roosevelt, Stevenson, Washington)


Figure 15
ISAT Results for Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview SD 89 (percentage of 8th grade students meeting or exceeding state standards, 2007)

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School District: Leyden Community High School District 212
Address: 3400 Roosevelt Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131-2155
Phone Number: (847) 451-3000
Grades Served: 9–12
Number of Students: 3,501
Number of Schools: 2 (East Leyden High School, West Leyden High School)


Figure 16
PSAE Results for Leyden CHSD 212 (percentage of 11th grade students meeting or exceeding state standards, 2007)
**School District**: Proviso Twp High School District 209  
**Address**: 807 S. 1st Avenue  
Maywood, IL 60153-2307  
**Phone Number**: (708) 202-3016  
**Grades Served**: 9–12  
**Number of Students**: 4,942  
**Number of Schools**: 3 (Proviso East High School, Proviso West High School, Proviso Mathematics and Science Academy)

---

**Figure 17**  
PSAE Results for Proviso Twp HSD 209  
(percentage of 11th grade students meeting or exceeding state standards, 2007)

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Thank you to those who contributed so much of their time and talent to create this publication.

FACILITATOR
Sylvia Puente, Institute for Latino Studies

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About the Authors

Sandra Del Toro is the director of education programs at the Southwest Organizing Project, a community organization of 29 member institutions on the southwest side of Chicago. She has nine years of experience in policy, program development, organizing, and advocacy. While at the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), she played a key role in passing legislation permitting immigrant students access to in-state tuition at public colleges and universities. At ICIRR, she also organized to open voting opportunities for Latino communities in the Western suburbs, which eventually resulted in the Kane County Clerk entering into a consent agreement with the US Department of Justice to properly abide with the provisions of the Voting Rights Act.

Sandra received her master’s degree in public policy studies from the University of Chicago and her undergraduate degree from Stanford University. She serves in volunteer leadership capacities for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Catholic Immigrant Centers of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Sylvia Puente began serving as executive director of the Latino Policy Forum in January 2009. The Forum is a public policy and advocacy organization in the Chicago metropolitan area working to improve educational outcomes for children, make housing accessible and affordable, and build the influence and leadership of the Latino community.

Sylvia has written extensively on issues important to the Latino community and has more than thirty publications to her credit. As a noted advocate, her depth of knowledge is regularly called upon to address local, state, and national conferences and meetings where she often serves as keynote speaker. She is particularly known for her ability to collaborate, build bridges, and promote understanding of diversity issues. She is one of only three experienced leaders chosen to become a 2009 Chicago Community Trust Fellow.

Sylvia’s twenty-five year career serving the Latino community spans a wide range of experience at local, state, and national levels. She served as director of the Center for Metropolitan Chicago Initiatives of the Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame. While at the Institute, she was the driving force behind convening a regional dialogue on the impact of Latino growth in the Chicago Metropolitan area.

Sylvia founded the Latino Leadership Council of the Chicago Foundation for Women, which has raised thousands of dollars to support organizations that provide services to women and girls. Along with many other civic organizations in which she is active, Sylvia serves as a board director of Advance Illinois, a public policy organization dedicated to improving education in the state.

Sylvia began her master’s degree studies at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and received her MA in public policy studies from the University of Chicago. She holds a BA in economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
Editor-in-chief Silvia Villa is the director of the Illinois Welcoming Center, a state initiative designed to integrate newcomers to the state of Illinois. The Illinois Welcoming Center has adopted a hybrid model that brings state agencies and community services into a one-stop center operating in Melrose Park since July 2007. Previously, Ms. Villa served in various capacities in higher education including as the assistant director of the UIC Latino Cultural Center, and as the director of the Gear Up Transitions to Success Network at Northeastern Illinois University. Ms. Villa’s recognitions include: 1991 US Congressional Fellowship, 1999 Human Rights Humanitarian of the Year (Casa Guatemala), City of Chicago Department of Human Relations Advisory Council on Women Affairs, Editorial Board Member, Catalyst Chicago education magazine.

Berenice Alejo is a policy analyst with the Latino Policy Forum. She has worked in the nonprofit sector creating and managing initiatives that strengthen communities for more than ten years. Her experience includes community development planning, project management, and capacity building in faith-based institutions. She has collaborated on several publications on the Latino community in the Chicago region and is the author of the 2008 Latino Landscape: A Metro Chicago Guide and Nonprofit Directory. Berenice serves on the executive committee of The Resurrection Project’s board of directors. She is a graduate of Williams College and is pursuing a master’s in nonprofit administration at the University of Notre Dame.
Community Alliance Directory of Services

Comprehensive Services

**Community Center OLMC-SCB**
1115 N. 23rd Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 345-3632

**Program Area:** Promotes assistance to several services offered by agencies in the areas of education, health, employment, migration and leadership.

**Geography Served:** Melrose Park and the immediate surrounding towns of Bellwood, Maywood and Stone Park.

**People served:** Over 2400 people per year.

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**Family Focus—Nuestra Familia**
1428 S. 59th Court
Cicero, IL 60804
p: (708) 652-0900

**Website:** [www.family-focus.org](http://www.family-focus.org)

**Program Area:** Early childhood education (0-5), family support; Adult services, bilingual/bicultural program; After school programs; Health & wellness; Foster family support; Financial literacy; Can provide workshops on child development, discipline, parent-child interaction, ages and stages assessment, youth development and many others.

**Geography Served:** Cicero, Berwyn, Stickney, Bellwood and Maywood. Other areas are coming. Program areas depend on program type.

**People served:** Over 2400 people.

---

**The Illinois Welcoming Center**
1708 Main Street
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 338-6500  f: (708) 338-6505

**Program Area:** Community, health, social, employment, educational rehabilitation and homeownership services, including: Food stamps, Medicaid, ‘All kids’ Health insurance, Family Care, Unemployment insurance, Employment Counseling, Small business center and Specialized Assessment for Rehabilitation Services. Work with direct referrals, assessments and enrollment: Local Food Pantries, English Classes, Citizenship Classes, Legal Assistance, Aging Services, Developmental and Rehabilitation Services, Health Screenings and Energy Assistance. **Workshops on:** Housing and Financial Literacy, Predatory Lending, Health and Nutrition, Mental Health Issues, Adolescent Development, Parenting Skills and Substance and Domestic Abuse.

The Welcoming Center can help you find about these services through the State of Illinois with the help of bilingual (English/Spanish) staff.

**Geography Served:** Statewide with focus on Melrose Park and the immediate surrounding towns of Bellwood, Maywood and Stone Park.

**Founded:** July 26, 2007

**People served:** Over 2000 people per year.

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**Proviso-Leyden Council for Community Action, Inc. (PLCCA)**
411 W. Madison Street
Maywood, IL 60153
p: (708) 450 3506

**Website:** [www.plcca.org](http://www.plcca.org)

**Program Area:** Programs and services to assist families with housing and energy assistance, youth development, substance abuse issues, adult literacy and job readiness, and senior citizens.

**Geography Served:** Proviso Township.
Cultural

Casa Jalisco
Melrose Park, IL 60160
Website: www.fedejal.us
Geography Served: Melrose Park.

Disabilities

Community Support Services
9021 Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513
p: (708) 354-4547 f: (708) 354 7412
Website: www.communitysupportservices.org
Program Area: Provides and promotes services for people with developmental disabilities and their families, within their communities, in order to strengthen their independence, self-esteem, and ability to participate in and contribute to community life.
Geography Served: The Near West and Western Suburbs of Suburban Cook County. This includes but is not limited to Cicero, Berwyn, Melrose Park, Maywood, Bellwood, Stone Park, and Hillside.
People served: CSS serves 600 individuals.

Department of Human Services—La Voz Latina
1115 N. 23rd Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 345 3632
Program Area: Referral services and programs available in the community, direct referral to educational opportunities, assistance in obtaining employment, direct referral services to home, advocacy and support to clients and their families to access to vocational rehabilitation program, and home services and assistive technology to support people with disabilities.
Geography Served: Melrose Park and the immediate surrounding towns of Bellwood, Maywood and Stone Park.
People served: Over 100 people per year.

SAI (Suburban Access, Inc.)
4415 W. Harrison
Hillside, IL 60162
Provides Co-location at Illinois Welcoming Center on Wednesdays.
p: (708) 799 9190
Website: www.suburbanaccess.org
Program Area: Case management and service coordination to individuals with developmental disabilities; Service Coordination, Case Management, and Community Education.
Geography Served: Melrose Park and the immediate surrounding towns of Bellwood, Maywood and Stone Park.
People served: Over 35,000 people per year.
Education

**Bellwood SD #88**
640 Eastern Ave.
Bellwood, IL 60104
p: (708) 344 9344
Website: www.sd88.org

Program Area: Suburban Cook County Public School Educational System for the State of Illinois

Geography Served: Grant Primary (Stone Park), Grant Elementary (Melrose Park), McKinley Elementary (Bellwood), Lincoln Elementary (Bellwood), Roosevelt Middle School Center (Bellwood), Roosevelt Middle School (Bellwood), Wilson Elementary (Bellwood).

People served: 3,239 students in the entire school district.

**Berkeley SD #87**
1200 N. Wolf Rd. (Administration Center)
Berkeley, IL 60163
p: (708) 449 3350
Website: www.berkeley87.org

Program Area: 
Geography Served: Northlake, Bellwood and Berkeley.

People served: 2,886 students in the entire school district.

**Latinos Unidos con Voz (LUV)**
122 Lathrop Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305
p: (708) 220 3321

Program Area: Scholarships, role-modeling workshops.

Geography Served: Melrose Park, Maywood, Stone Park, and surrounding areas.

People served: 100 people approximately, per year.

**Leyden CHSD #212**
**East Campus**
3400 Rose Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131
p: (847) 451 3000
Website: www.leyden212.org

Program Area:
Geography Served: Franklin Park.

People served: 3,537 students in the entire school district.

**Lincoln Primary/Early Childhood Center**
SD #88
3519 Wilcox
Bellwood, IL 60104
p: (708) 410 3701
Website: www.sd88.org

Program Area: This is a Pre-K school for children 3 to 5 years old. We also have a Parenting Program designed to help expecting parents, and parents with children from 0–5 years old. Its purpose is to help parents to communicate and interact.

Geography Served: Stone Park and Bellwood

People served: 115 students

**Mannheim SD #83**
10401 W. Grand Ave.
Franklin Park, IL 60131
p: (847) 455 4413
Website: www.d83.org

Program Area:
Geography Served: Franklin Park, Melrose Park, and Northlake.

People served: 2,757 students in the entire school district.

**Maywood Child Development Center**
1100 Madison Street
Maywood, IL 60153
p: (708) 865 0605

Program Area: Childcare services.

Geography Served: Maywood.

**Maywood, Melrose Park,**
**Broadview SD #89**
906 Walton Street
Melrose Park, IL 60440
p: (708) 450 2460
Website: www.maywood89.org

Program Area: Suburban Cook County Public School Educational System for the State of Illinois – Elementary Pre-K to 8th Grade.

Geography Served: Servicing Villages of Maywood, Melrose Park, and Broadview.

People served: Serving student population of 5,586.
**Proviso East High School**
807 S. 1st Avenue
Maywood, IL 60153
p: (708) 344 7000
Website: www.pths209.org
Program Area: Proviso Township High Schools provides a quality comprehensive education to encourage academic excellence and learning for life.
Geography Served: Proviso Township.
People served: They have an estimate of 2,000 students.

**Proviso West High School**
4701 W. Harrison
Hillside, IL 60162
p: (708) 449 6400
Website: www.pths209.org
Program Area: Proviso Township High Schools provides a quality comprehensive education to encourage academic excellence and learning for life.
Geography Served: Proviso Township.
People served: They have an estimate of 2,800 students

**Triton College**
2000 N. 5th Avenue
River Grove, IL 60171
p: (708) 456 0300
Website: www.triton.edu
Program Area: Comprehensive public Community College in the State of Illinois. Two year college
Geography Served: Located in western Cook County and serves the near western suburbs of the city of Chicago.
People served: They have an estimate of 18,000 students

**Triton College Nuevos Horizontes**
1708 Main Street
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 649 2101
Website: www.triton.edu/nuevoshorizontes
Program Area: Academic Counseling, Bilingual Computer Certificate program, Bilingual staff, Citizenship instruction in class or computer based-independent study, College Admission information, Computer Technology Center, Continuing Education. Classes, Independent Learning Center, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, Spanish General Education Development (GED) classes, Registration for the ESL and GED Programs, Translation of birth and marriage certificates, Tutoring in Spanish literacy, English, and Math.
Geography Served: Nuevos Horizontes serves the area of Triton College District 504, which includes 25 towns. Among these towns are Bellwood, Berkeley, Broadview, Elmwood Park, Hillside, Forest Park, Franklin Park, Maywood, Melrose Park, Northlake, Schiller Park, Stone Park, etc.
People served: Nuevos Horizontes provides the mentioned services through approximately 16,500 student-duplicated-contacts each year. For the Adult Education Program, which includes ESL, GED, and Citizenship, Nuevos Horizontes conducts registration and class placement for 3290 students each year.
Health Services

ACCESS Community Health Network
8321 W. North Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 681 2298
Website: www.communityhealthnetwork.net
Program Area: Family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, public benefits enrollment, breast and cervical cancer screening, school and sports physicals tests and on-site pharmacy.
Geography Served: Melrose Park and the immediate surrounding towns. We actually have no boundaries that would restrict anybody from accessing our services.
People served: Over 7,000 patients visit annually

Access to Care
2225 Enterprise Drive, Suite 2507
Westchester, IL 60154
p: (708) 531-0680  f: (708) 531-0686
Website: www.access2care.org
Program Area: Basic Human Needs & Health
Geography Served: Cicero, Elgin, Cook County, Edison Park, Norwood Park, Jefferson Park, Portage Park, Irving Park, Belmont Cragin, Suburban Cook County
Founded: 1988

Gottlieb Memorial Hospital
701 W. North Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 681 3200
Website: www.gottliebhospital.org
Geography Served: Proviso Township

Westlake Hospital
1225 W. Lake Street
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 681 3000
Website: www.reshealth.org
Program Area: Delivering premier medical care to the Western suburbs, through advanced medicine and Centers of Excellence including, the Emergency Department, Back and Neck Pain Center, Women’s Health Center and Family Birthplace. State of the art Maternity unit offers culturally and linguistically appropriate care. Provide on-site comprehensive medical interpreter services to limited-English speaking patients Monday–Sunday. ER interpreters available until 10 p.m. Monday–Sunday. Offers a school nutritionist program as well as a variety of community health education programs within the community.
Geography Served: Melrose Park and the immediate surrounding towns of Bellwood, Broadview, Maywood, Stone Park, Northlake, River Forest, Elmhurst, Franklin Park, Bensenville, and other surrounding areas.
People served: Served 7,232 patients in FY 2008
1,378 Births in FY 2008
19,621 Emergency Department Visits in FY 2008

Housing

Maywood Housing Authority
801 S 5th Ave
Maywood, IL 60153
p: (708) 345-7315
Website: www.maywoodhousingauthority.com
Program Area: Rental apartments
Geography Served: Maywood.

The Resurrection Project
1818 S. Paulina Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
p: (312) 666 1323
Website: www.resurrectionproject.org
Program Area: Rental apartments, new homes for sale, home buyer education, Financial Services, foreclosure intervention, immigration, health and safety.
Geography Served: Chicago.
Immigration

Catholic Charities
1400 S. Austin
Cicero, IL 60804
p: (708) 329 4022
Website: www.catholiccharities.net

Program Area: Adoption/post-adoption services, Child abuse/neglect investigation, Counseling and therapy, Daycare for low-income families, Elder abuse investigation, Family shelters, Food and clothing pantries, Gang intervention and prevention services, Health fairs for low-income communities, Help for domestic violence victims, HIV/AIDS counseling, Home care and day services for seniors, Immigration and Refugee assistance, Job training, and more.

Geography Served: Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
1115 N. 23rd Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (312) 332 7360
Website: www.icirr.org

Program Area: Promote the rights of immigrants and refugees to full and equal participation in the civic, cultural, social, and political life of our diverse society. The Coalition educates and organizes immigrant and refugee communities to assert their rights; promotes citizenship and civic participation; monitors, analyzes, and advocates on immigrant-related issues; and, informs the general public about the contributions of immigrants and refugees.

Geography Served: State of Illinois.

Patronato ACAI (Associazione Cristiana Artigiani Italiani)
1115 N. 23rd Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 450 1030
Website: www.patronatoacai.it

Program Area: Old age pension, disability, war pension, citizenship, renewal of Italian passport, life certificate, etc.

Geography Served: State of Illinois.

People served: 372 people approximately, per year.

Local Media

Pioneer Press
3701 W. Lake Ave.
Glenview, IL 60026
p: (708) 524 4412
(847) 486 9300
Website: www.pioneerlocal.com

Program Area: Newspaper in English

Radio Maria
3800 W. Division Street
Stone Park, IL 60165
p: (708) 345 3299

Website: www.radiomaria.org

Program Area: Radio programs in Italian Language.

People served: Over 1,000 listeners.

Reflejos Newspaper
155 E. Algonquin Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
p: (847) 806 1111

Website: www.reflejos.com

Program Area: Newspaper in Spanish and in English.

Geography Served: 7 Counties: Clark, Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McLean, and Will.

People served: 10 million readers per year.

Ultimas Noticias
P.O. Box 1643
Melrose Park, Illinois, 60160
p: (708) 543 5730
(708) 345 3000

Website: www.ultimasnoticias.us

Program Area: Newspaper in Spanish

Melrose Park, Stone Park, Aurora, Cicero, and Elgin.

People served: Over 2,000,000 readers per year.
Mental Health Services/Substance Abuse

Resurrection ProCare Centro de Salud Familiar
1414 Main Street
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 410 0615
      (708) 681 0073
Website: www.access.reshealth.org
Program Area: Individual, couples & family therapy; therapy groups for depression, anger management, life skills, Empowerment for, children with ADHD and more; substance abuse and DUI program; domestic violence intervention groups, Spanish psychiatric services, parenting classes, & strengthening families program.
Geography Served: Village of Melrose Park and the immediate surrounding towns of Bellwood, Maywood and Stone Park.
People served: Close to 7,000 unduplicated clients every year.

Healthcare Alternative Systems, Inc.
1115 N. 23rd Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (773) 387 4843 f:
Website: www.hascares.org
Program Area: Provider of behavioral health care services (substance abuse, ancillary mental health, and social services)
Geography Served: Melrose Park and the immediate surrounding towns of Bellwood, Maywood and Stone Park.
People served: Over 60 people per year.

Pilsen Wellness Center
1633 N. 37th Ave.
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 343 7860
Website: www.pilsennh.org
Program Area: Provider of behavioral health care services (substance abuse, ancillary mental health, and social services), and Methadone Treatment Program.
Geography Served: Melrose Park and the immediate surrounding towns of Bellwood, Maywood and Stone Park.
People served: Both locations serve over 1,300 people per year.

Proviso Township Mental Health Commission (PTMHC)
4415 W. Harrison Street, Suite 334
Hillside, IL 60162
p: (708) 449 5508
Website: www.ptmhc.org
Program Area: Provide financial assistance in the form of annual or special grants for operating purposes from funds obtained by assessment of annual tax on real property to agencies involved in providing prevention or treatment services to township residents in the areas of mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorder.
Geography Served: Proviso Township.
Religious Institutions and Movements

**Brazilian Community**
1637 N. 37th Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (847) 696 0992

**Program Area:** Spiritual, Charities and social services.
**Geography Served:** Archdiocese of Chicago.
**People served:** Over 100 members.

**EVAE (El Verdadero Amor Espera)**
1115 N. 23rd Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 345 3632

[Website: www.comiteprovida.org](http://www.comiteprovida.org)

**Program Area:** Catholic dedicated promotion of abstinence until marriage.
**Geography Served:** Mexico: D.F., Guadalajara and Veracruz; USA: Illinois, California, North of Carolina and Florida.

**People served:** Over 500 people per year.

**Knights of Columbus/St. Charles Borromeo**
1637 N. 37th Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 343 7646

[Website: www.scborromeo.org](http://www.scborromeo.org)

**Program Area:** To render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare and public relief works.

**Geography Served:** Melrose Park and surrounding areas.

**People served:** 80 people, members and their families.

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church**
1101 N. 23rd Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 344 4140

[Website: www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)

**Program Area:** Spiritual, charities, and social services.
**Geography Served:** Melrose Park and surrounding areas.
**People served:** 1200 families registered. More than 100,000 people are coming to the church per year.

**Saint Charles Borromeo Church**
1637 N. 37th Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 343 7646

**Program Area:** Spiritual, Charities and social services.
**Geography Served:** Melrose Park and surrounding areas.
**People served:** 512 families registered. More than 80,000 people are coming to the church per year.

**Saint John Vianney Parish**
46 N. Wolf Road
Northlake, IL 60164
p: (708) 562 0500

**Program Area:** Spiritual, charities, and social services.
**Geography Served:** Northlake and surrounding areas.
**People served:** 600 people registered. More than 80,000 come to the church every year.

**Saint Simeon Church**
430 Bohland Avenue
Bellwood, IL 60104
p: (708) 547 6868

**Program Area:** Spiritual, charities, and social services.
**Geography Served:** Bellwood and surrounding areas.
**People served:** 800 families registered. More than 35,000 people are coming to the church per year.

**Scalabrinian Lay Movement**
1115 N. 23rd Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 345 3632

**Program Area:** Promotion of leadership, involvement in activities to defend the rights of migrants and refugees.
**Geography Served:** Archdiocese of Chicago.
**People served:** 35 members.
Villages / Municipalities

Village of Bellwood
3200 Washington Blvd
Bellwood, IL 60104
p: (708) 547 3500
Website: [www.villageofbellwood.com](http://www.villageofbellwood.com)
Program Area: In charge of local municipality via ordinances, public services and law.
Geography Served: Village of Bellwood.
People served: 20,353 people per year.

Village of Maywood
40 Madison Street
Maywood, IL 60153
p: (708) 344 1200
Website: [www.maywood-il.org](http://www.maywood-il.org)
Program Area: Services provided by the Village of Maywood are under the direction of the Village Manager who is guided by the Village Board. The Village Clerk also provides important services through a separate office, which is guided by the Village Board. Core Services Departments: Code Enforcement; Community Development; Constituent Services; Finance; Human Resource; Public Works.
Geography Served: Village of Maywood.
People served: Over 20,000 people per year.

Village of Melrose Park
1000 N. 25th Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
p: (708) 343 4000
Website: [www.melrosepark.org](http://www.melrosepark.org)
Program Area: In charge of local municipality via ordinances, public services and law.
Geography Served: Village of Melrose Park.
People served: Over 4,000 people per year.

Village of Northlake
55 E. North Avenue
Northlake, IL 60164
p: (708) 343 8700
Website: [www.northlakecity.com](http://www.northlakecity.com)
Program Area: The City of Northlake provides a full range of municipal services, including public safety (police), public works, streets and sanitation.
Geography Served: Village of Northlake.
People served: The Northlake city government serves a citizenry of 12,000 people.

Village of Stone Park
1629 Mannheim Road
Stone Park, Illinois 60165
p: (708) 450 3204
Program Area: Passports, public safety (police-Fire Departments).
Geography Served: Village of Stone Park.
People served: Over 6,000 people per year.
## Community Alliance Organization Matrix

The following matrix provides an alphabetical listing of all the organizations and their program offerings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Art &amp; Culture</th>
<th>Immigration</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Human Needs</th>
<th>Youth Safety Services</th>
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