

## In Brief

### Research Project Evaluating Nonprofit Funding and Services in Latino Communities

For the past year, the Illinois Facilities Fund (IFF) and the Mid-America Institute on Poverty of Heartland Alliance (MAIP) having been planning a vital research project focused on the Chicago metropolitan area's Latino communities. *Opportunities and Challenges: An Assessment of Nonprofit Funding and Services in Metropolitan Chicago's Latino Communities* will enable nonprofits, government, and other funders to respond to previous reports highlighting the changing Latino demographics in the six-county Chicago region.

The primary goal of the study is to identify areas for service expansion, including the challenges to expanding nonprofit services targeted to Latino residents. However, it will also highlight successes in providing services to Latino communities.

A second goal of the project is to use the information collected to assess the capacity of the nonprofit sector to meet the considerable needs of the growing Latino population. An 18-member advisory committee of Latino professionals, drawing primarily from the nonprofit and public sectors, and an eight-member research advisory committee, are guiding the project along with research and support staff from the IFF and MAIP.

A publication containing the results of this research will be released early in 2007, and will be made available on the Web sites of both project sponsors. This research builds on the IFF's experience studying the financial health and capacity of the nonprofit sector, and conducting needs assessments for child care in Illinois, and also upon MAIP's experience studying employment services, affordable housing, poverty, and immigration.

For more information, contact Susan Cahn, director of research at the IFF, at (312) 629-0060.

Geography (by County, except as noted)	% Latino in 2000	% Latino in 2005 (Estimated)	% Change in Latino Population 2000-2005
Cook	19.9	22.5	9.4
Chicago (City)	26.0	28.8	9.4
DuPage	9.0	11.5	28.8
Kane	23.7	27.7	37.6
Lake	14.4	18.4	35.8
McHenry	7.5	10.1	56.4
Will	8.7	12.9	86.6

Source: Census 2000 and 2005 American Community Survey