A little more than five years after several local foundations expressed an interest in helping to build a new Fund for Immigrants and Refugees, we look back with great pride in the work of the organizations supported by the Fund, and with pleasure on the work we have put in, in good company.

With gratitude we recognize the twenty-seven funders—foundations, the State of Illinois, and the United Way in Chicago—whose contributions brought the Fund to life and made our impact large. We are particularly grateful to George Soros’ Emma Lazarus Fund for issuing the initial challenge that led to the creation of our fund.

We thank, too, the thirty-seven staff and trustees who since September 1997 have steered the Fund—creating policies, establishing its funding priorities, reading and evaluating proposals, and awarding its grants. Working together has been wonderful.

Warm thanks to Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees. Your vision of a fund lit the spark and your organizing was the platform for our early development.

In an early one of the Fund’s nine grant cycles, we did not invite community experts into the Fund’s application review process. We never did that again! Our warm thanks to the thirty-nine volunteers who elevated our understanding of immigrant communities and their issues.

Three other members of the Steering Committee have served as co-chairs, Leslie Ramyk, Mark Marquardt, and Marcia Lipetz. They know best the challenge and satisfaction of making a real contribution to strengthening opportunities for immigrants and refugees in our region. And like all of us who have served on the Steering Committee, they have shared in the enhanced knowledge that benefits us as grantmakers. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Thanks also to the Fund’s staff. Without the insight, patience, and collaborative leadership of Alice Cottingham, the Fund would never have accomplished all that it has in raising dollars, making meaningful grants, and bringing together a sometimes feisty group of funders. Ably assisted by Sierra Collins-Jackson, Alice has been the conscience and brains of the Fund throughout its history.

Most of all, thanks to the fifty-nine organizations that have so intelligently, creatively, and powerfully addressed essential community concerns. You’ve increased the power of immigrants and refugees in metropolitan Chicago. We speak for all those who’ve been part of the Fund: we’ll watch your development with keen interest and a sense of shared commitment.

We regret that space doesn’t allow us to list here the Fund’s grantees, partners, Steering Committee members, and those who helped us review proposals, but each of those names appears later in this report. Thank you all.

Ada Mary Gugenheim  Nikki Will Stein
Co-Chair  Co-Chair
The Fund for Immigrants and Refugees—a grantmakers’ collaboration—was created in early 1997, in response to the timely convergence of commitments, resources, and capacity. In January 1997, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, a member issues group of the Donors Forum of Chicago, hosted a program about the impact on immigrants and refugees of welfare and immigration reform legislation passed in 1996, and introduced the new Emma Lazarus Fund.

Rapid action by funders and nonprofits was catalyzed by the implications for Chicago of policy changes and the offer of the Emma Lazarus Fund, a fund of the Open Society Institute, to consider a proposal from Chicago area grantmakers for local regranting to support citizenship services. A working group formed to outline the mission, structure, and fundraising strategy of a new, time-limited pooled fund that would become the Fund for Immigrants and Refugees. Through the creation of the collaboration, they mobilized resources and drew philanthropic attention to immigrant communities—long a part of metropolitan Chicago, but not previously the focus of a single funder.

A proposal was drafted in late spring, a sponsoring organization, the Donors Forum of Chicago, was selected and with the receipt in May 1997 of a two-year grant of $150,000 from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and in early June of $1.5 million over two years from the Emma Lazarus Fund, the Fund for Immigrants and Refugees officially came into existence. In record time the group raised $500,000, the match required by the Emma Lazarus grant. A Steering Committee composed of all the funding partners was established. It hired an Executive Director, and between September and the end of December 1997, put into place all the necessary policies and procedures that made it possible to complete its first grant cycle.

The purpose of the Fund was to:

- provide grants to a range of programs benefiting immigrants and refugees within the Chicago metropolitan area;
- promote positive public awareness of immigrants and refugees; and
- advocate within philanthropy for continued support of programs working on behalf of immigrants and refugees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illinois Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Born in U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign born</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census 2000 Supplementary Survey
This mission was coupled with a commitment to assure that funding priorities and planning processes would include the perspective and input of immigrant-serving organizations. Of great importance also to the members of the Steering Committee was to adopt governance and grantmaking processes that would be effective, efficient, and inclusive.

Ultimately, twenty-seven funders contributed $6.8 million to the Fund for regranting and operations. By the end of May 2002, almost $6.3 million in grants will have been awarded to more than sixty organizations in metropolitan Chicago for activities in five areas: citizenship services, legal services, advocacy, community organizing, and health access projects. An evaluation conducted by Ruth Belzer in March 1999 made clear that the grantmakers who participated as donors and on the Fund’s Steering Committee, and the nonprofits that sought and received grants held the Fund in high regard.

Created initially as a two-year initiative, the Fund’s Steering Committee extended its work for another two and a half years, in recognition that much remained to be accomplished and learned.

As the Fund closes, there is common accord that our work was important and significant, and our collaboration useful and satisfying. Chicago philanthropy has a history of grantmaking collaboration, and we are pleased to be among the latest and most outstanding examples. Our success over time is attributable to a number of conditions and demonstrates some of the advantages of pooled funds and grants made collaboratively. These are described below.

We also comment on cautions about collaboration and some choices we might make differently if we had it to do again.

THERE IS A TIME AND PLACE FOR GRANTMAKING COLLABORATION AND IT CAN BE A VERY EFFECTIVE APPROACH TO GRANTMAKING

Early philanthropic passion, action, commitment, and generosity—and nonprofit capacity—are crucial to a collaboration’s creation and effectual early planning. First, a real national crisis—welfare reform, and its disproportionate impact on immigrants—occurred. The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights credibly and powerfully described to funders the local, critical dimensions of public benefits and immigration policy change. Funders’ attention was further engaged by the opportunity to leverage new money: a very large grant from the Emma Lazarus Fund.

A platform and infrastructure for organizing grantmakers and the Fund’s founders existed in Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR). Its grantmaking members (staff of local private and public funding entities) knew one another, and had long discussed whether a pooled fund could be created in Chicago. They and the nonprofit members (staff of local immigrant-serving organizations) were familiar with many groups ready and able to engage in concerted advocacy and service expansion in immigrant and refugee communities.

A small, highly energetic, knowledgeable, and productive group of leaders, the founders, were able to bring together key grantmakers, outline essential tasks
and decisions, facilitate decision-making, seek early funding, and hire staff between February and August 1997. Speed was matched by wise choices made early on, so that the mission and structure of the Fund stood the test of time.

Last, but by no means least, money was put on the table, first by the MacArthur Foundation and the Emma Lazarus Fund. Chicago Foundation for Women, Fel-Pro/Mecklenburger Foundation, Grand Victoria Foundation, Polk Bros. Foundation, Retirement Research Foundation, and WPWR-TV Channel 50 Foundation quickly matched.

**Collaborative grantmaking is a great learning opportunity for funders.** Partners learned a great deal about immigration, and about the strengths and needs of local immigrant communities and the organizations serving them. In a metropolitan area with a large and growing immigrant population, this will have lasting value. Participating grantmakers reported that what they learned informed their work, helping some to bring immigrants into the established priorities of their foundations and others to address immigrant issues more strategically.

Partners rapidly absorbed complexities of policy, communities, and multiple nonprofits, through hands on review of funding applications, and via formal educational programming and written resources offered by GCIR, and prepared by Fund staff. Steering Committee members reviewing proposals in unfamiliar fields had the opportunity to learn from expert colleagues. Participation of knowledgeable community representatives—immigrants, including staff from community organizations, and others with expertise related to specific funding foci—in the reading group stage of the proposal review process added highly valued insight.

Partners also noted that they learned a great deal from working with their colleagues. One noted, “Funders don’t spend much time talking about how to make grants. It was a useful exercise to work through decisions about policies, priorities, individual grants among experienced peers.” Newer grantmakers were especially appreciative of the chance to learn.

**Making contributions to a collaborative with as few restrictions as possible allows for greatest collective impact. However restrictions can yield great leverage.** More than half of the partners made contributions for regranting with no restrictions or for giving in broad categories. That is, most dollars could be used anywhere in the metropolitan Chicago area, for any population, and if for specific activities, these were broadly defined (e.g., naturalization services, health). In some cases, this was less restrictive than the partner’s usual grants. Other funders required that their dollars be used in more narrowly defined ways—in certain western suburban communities, in support of advocacy, or for older immigrants. Fortunately, restrictions tended to be overlapping, or to cover demographic groups that were well-represented among applicants within funding categories.

The mix of dollars allowed the Steering Committee to define a small number of funding categories—naturalization services, legal services, advocacy, community organizing, and health access. Supporting services designed to help immigrants become U.S. citizens—ESL and civics education, case assistance, legal services, and advocacy—was an initial draw for many partners to join the Fund,
and with the first $1.5 million grant from the Emma Lazarus Fund and a substantial portion of the State of Illinois’ $1.9 million contribution restricted for such grants, this area was very richly funded. Two restricted grants for legal services and four restricted for advocacy and organizing, while comparatively small in amount, demanded consideration because of the need to meet their restrictions, and happily coincided with urgent and central needs in local communities.

When established categories failed to elicit requests for health projects (another partner’s restriction), the Fund tested and confirmed that there were important concerns about immigrant health access. With the leadership of that partner, the Fund solicited the commitment of six other health partners (four new and two continuing) that made grants for this purpose. Funders able to help shape grant priorities relished the considerable leverage value of their contributions.

**Collaborative funding reduces the risk, and increases the range of work that can be supported.** Some of the toughest issues to support—such as representation of immigrants in INS detention—were fundable, in part because no single foundation’s board of trustees had to approve such a grant. (The commitment of the Steering Committee to tackle the most important issues, regardless of controversy, was also notable.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Naturalized citizen</th>
<th>Not a citizen</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entered 1990–2000</td>
<td>713,522</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entered before 1990</td>
<td>813,241</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,526,763</td>
<td>913,111</td>
<td>1,526,763</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Census 2000 Supplementary Survey*

Similarly, by pooling their contributions, partners were able to support work that fell outside the range of their institution’s grant focus, making dollars available for projects that don’t easily fit common criteria. Funding to groups outside Chicago—where immigrant populations have been growing—is a good example of this. While the great majority of partners fund only in the city or Cook County, about a quarter of grant dollars from the Fund supported suburban-specific projects.

When sufficient flexibility among the partners and in the partners’ contributions is present, a collaboration is also able to explore how more flexible funding can foster innovation. Thus, the Fund was able to support a new partnership between immigrant rights and disability rights advocates and one between immigrant rights activists and battered women’s activists. In another instance, a grantee received support to extend its citizenship services to include aid to naturalization applicants whose applications had become stuck in the Immigration and Naturalization Service, sometimes for several years. The grantee quickly discovered that it was documenting a systemic problem, which prompted a unique, new systemic advocacy and policy response. The Fund also made a set of grants in support of outreach, education, and action related to the 2000 census, seeking to improve past undercounting in immigrant communities. One grantee effectively
designed its activities to be the base for a new emphasis on organizing immigrants. Most grants to the Fund were made in support of regranting; partners were asked to allow 10% of the grant to be used for the Fund’s personnel, program, and operating costs, with 90% for regranting, and this was generally acceptable. Several partners made supplemental grants for special projects—reports, briefings, and printing. One partner, prohibited from regranting, made a valuable grant in support of technical assistance and training for the health access grantees.

Grantmaking through a collaborative process is very effective. “More heads are better than one” is a basic idea behind making grants collaboratively. In a funding community in which, in 1997, there was considerably more collective knowledge than existed in any single foundation, tapping shared wisdom was smart. The variety of knowledge, experience (with specific applicants, activities being funded, and grantmaking practice), and perspective brought to bear was very rich. One partner noted that all applicants received a better review, because there was always someone in the discussion to raise a “Well, what about this?” question that helped the whole group examine a proposal’s merits from many vantage points.

The collaborative approach was a very effective way for multiple grantmakers to respond to a crisis and to a set of complex issues. Longtime experts in and allied with immigrant communities provided a quick early (and continuing) education to staff, who in turn helped provide good technical information to Steering Committee members.

Collaborative grantmaking does not save time. The investment is significant, and especially for collaboratives willing to allow differing degrees of involvement, leaders and other active members are required to devote considerable time in and between meetings. However, we believe that the process does make for a better end result.

Good will among partners is key. Comity among members of the Steering Committee was remarkable. Mutual respect, good humor, and curiosity were the hallmarks of the truly collaborative working style of the Steering Committee. For the sake of having significant impact, partners of the Fund consistently set aside concerns of territoriality, melded various grantmaking styles, and gave up business-as-usual behavior.

“I saw, time and again, people who I know to have strong opinions and preferred ways of going about things, defer to the sense of the group in order to move the process forward,” said one Fund partner.

The strong leadership of the Fund’s co-chairs engendered a sense of competence and participation. The co-chairs’ commitment of substantial amounts of time between meetings of the Steering Committee was the fuel behind the smooth running of all aspects of the Fund. The near continuous leadership of one co-chair added invaluable continuity. Co-chairs and staff worked together to assure that the substantive issues being considered were attended to, along with the process that was used to reach agreement.

A clear, predictable internal process was important for keeping all on the same page. The Steering Committee structure provided every partner multiple opportuni-
ties for greater engagement, without penalty for a lesser degree of involvement. For example, members chose in each funding cycle whether to participate in reading groups and the final grant award meeting, or only in the latter. A few contributors chose not to participate on the Steering Committee, and this was not questioned.

Most partners highly valued the Fund’s decision to allow all grantmakers who contributed to the Fund to send a representative to participate on the Steering Committee, and recommended this practice to future collaborators. This assured partners’ involvement from all points of a wide continuum of local private and public contributions: from $6,000 to $1.9 million.

**The infusion of national money was critical, as was the State’s decision to join in FY99.** Without the possibility and then commitment of $1.5 million from the Emma Lazarus Fund at the outset, it seems very unlikely the Fund would have been created. Though local grantmakers were concerned about the overall impact of welfare reform and the disproportionate impact of cuts on immigrant recipients, these were important but not sufficient factors in the Fund’s formation. The opportunity to obtain national funding caught the attention of local foundations, and matching Emma Lazarus’ contribution was remarkably easy. Prominent national funding also assured that the nascent collaboration was not viewed as the property of a local larger funder. That Emma Lazarus’ generous contribution was made rapidly and with few strings made it all the more valuable.

“Without meaning to be rude, I wish more national foundations could rise to the Emma Lazarus Fund pinnacle of trust in local integrity. I truly believe that locals are much better informed (especially if such a broad-based combined donor and community member participatory process is used) than the nationals, when it comes to grassroots efforts,” remarked a Steering Committee member.

Unlike many states, Illinois has benefited from strong public funding of refugee and immigrant-serving nonprofits. In 1998, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) joined the Fund, ultimately making nearly $2 million—and a wealth of seasoned knowledge—available to the Fund.

These two very generous donors were crucially important, and they easily might have dominated decisions and direction of the Fund. The Emma Lazarus Fund did not participate on the Steering Committee, and IDHS joined in the Fund’s second year. That the representatives of both were consistently viewed as collegial resources, not ten-ton gorillas, is testament to the gracious and respectful
style of each, and to the fact that the structure gave all partners equal voice on the Steering Committee.

**Collaboration can be very cost effective.** From the beginning, Steering Committee members committed to using 90% of the Fund’s resources for grants. An additional 1% was used for program-specific work, selected to fill gaps in research, data, and information of use to immigrant organizations, grantmakers, policymakers, and the media. The Fund produced five reports; all are posted on the website. Intensive educational programming—primarily for the immigrant health access grantees, for whom few networking and professional development opportunities existed—was also an adjunct to grants.

Personnel expense was the largest operating cost, and covered a full-time executive director and .10 FTE assistant. A part-time director was initially considered, but full-time allowed for a much faster start up, ensured the director could spend substantial time in the community and at immigrant-specific and philanthropic meetings and trainings, and allowed her to be available to grantmakers (partners and others) and nonprofits as a resource. She was seen as being very helpful, responding to and sharing ideas, leads, and other resources. Full-time staffing also increases the odds for any collaboration that staffing will remain consistent through the life of the initiative, thereby building internal capacity.

**The right sponsoring organization makes a big difference.** The Fund has been extremely fortunate to be sponsored by the Donors Forum of Chicago. Deciding to structure the Fund as a special project of an existing organization was an early and uncontested decision. The Donors Forum was widely perceived as a hospitable and competent site for the Fund by local foundations, most of whom were its members. It had a track record of hosting grantmaking partnerships, a strong president, and the chair of the 1997 board was widely respected in philanthropy and active in the creation of the Fund. Because it was not itself a funder, the Donors Forum was seen as a more neutral host than a grantmaking public charity.

Since the Fund opened, the Donors Forum has provided a range of services, including: office space, communications (including media coverage, space on the website, and keeping the Fund in front of the Forum’s membership), financial services, part-time support staffing, use of equipment and supplies, and consultation with the president. Less concrete, but equally valuable have been the warm collegiality, newsworthy philanthropic and nonprofit grapevine, loaned luster, and access to the Donors Forum’s excellent library and conference room.

**Motivation for contributing and participation varied, and multiple reasons were easily accommodated.** Near the close of the Fund, partners were asked what their institutions had hoped to gain by contributing, and whether those hopes had been realized. The spectrum of reasons for joining was broad:

“We knew that the surge in citizenship applications was creating legal problems that none of our grantees had the capacity to respond to. Because the Fund understood the importance of legal services from day one, we were able to use our relatively small contribution to leverage a significant amount of support for immigrant legal services. Without the Fund, we’d have been caught flat-footed.”
“We joined partly out of a sense of obligation to our community and our colleagues. But we also joined because it represented an opportunity to have a more direct impact on a population we had long been involved in funding.”

To further individual funder’s specific aims, e.g., “to increase the visibility of older immigrants and refugees,” “to advance our interest in advocacy and organizing for systems change,” “to support some of our initiatives, while introducing us to other applicants,” and “the expansion of services, enabling advocacy, stimulation of discussion, support of special populations of immigrants, coalition-building and concern for community-based organization development all were objectives of ours that were met through the Fund.”

“The issue is important to directors, but not one of our funding areas. We lack expertise. This was a good way for us to participate.”

“To learn more about the organizations serving immigrants and refugees.”

“To try out consortia funding. And because it provided our staff with the opportunity to work among a distinguished group of funders under excellent leadership.”

That no partner reported that its aims went unmet is good news indeed, and reflects the ease with which the collaboration was able to meet various needs—and a philanthropic community with a long history of cooperative funding experience.

The grantmaking process and grants allocation reflected essential values of the Fund and were effective and liked by most. As detailed in an evaluation conducted by Ruth Belzer early in 1999, the processes used by the Fund to set priorities, develop guidelines, reach out to community organizations, review proposals, and award grants was popular among applicants, grantees, and Steering Committee members. The Fund’s materials and application process were designed to be user-friendly, accessible, transparent, responsive, and fair.

“I think the grant applicants and grantees were handed an application process that was just about exactly right in terms of the amount of effort they had to expend in order to get in on the Fund’s support,” commented a partner. The formal application process and grantmaking cycles leveled the playing field. The Fund sought to help prospective applicants calculate whether it was worth their while to apply by including in funding guidelines what amount was anticipated for grants in each cycle, and how many organizations were eligible for renewed support.

The Fund elected to make grants in five areas, adding health access grants

### Languages Spoken at Home in Illinois

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Population 5 years and older</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English only</td>
<td>9,059,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language other than English</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>1,214,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Indo-European languages</td>
<td>645,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian and Pacific Islander languages</td>
<td>228,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other languages</td>
<td>82,145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census 2000 Supplementary Survey
in the final two years. These areas were explored with community members before being formally adopted. The connections among and reinforcing dimensions of naturalization services, advocacy, legal services, and community organizing were evident early on, and they were selected with a deliberate wish to help local nonprofits do more in each category. The Fund’s wish was that its resources would help strengthen organizations’ capacity to focus on basic rights, community voice and enfranchisement, and access to justice at a time when these were under attack.

What became clear over time was the degree to which the Fund’s approach—to fund in these areas, to fund broadly across ethnic/nationality and geographical communities, and to support organizations at various stages of development, and sometimes with little history of immigrant-specific work—would result in a significant building of capacity of the collective field of local immigrant work. It seems obvious to us that the aggregate capacity of local groups’ work by, with, and for immigrants and refugees is significantly better than it was when we began, and that Fund resources have helped this develop.

“The Fund has produced an environment for growth and innovation in the field of immigrant and refugee services, advocacy, and organizing. The Fund’s overall picture of the challenges in the community, with its power to unite, effectively moved issues and strategies along. Once together on an issue, the Fund stepped back and let the community dictate the actions,” observed a grantee.

Some partners never felt that grants were large or concentrated enough, and some grantee organizations agreed (“In a better world, we would be able to go to a single grantmaker, like the Fund, and get our full project funding, rather than spending so much time hustling smaller amounts from a host of funders,” said one recipient.) Other partners bit their tongues about the size of grants, seeing them as too large, especially to smaller organizations. Many grantees noted that the grants they received were unusually large, and allowed them to spend less time on fundraising and more time on program, and those who received grants for more than one project or purpose described this as relatively unusual and very helpful.

One grantee noted, “The Fund has provided crucial and generous grants to support our work. With Fund grants, we have been able to enhance our capacity to conduct our core functions. Funding also enabled us to undertake major new and timely projects regarding issues of great importance to immigrants and refugees. The Fund played a major role in developing a new program for immigrants previously mostly unnoticed, helping to identify the need and convening the organizations that would play leading roles in its implementation.”

Despite widespread satisfaction with the Fund, grantmaking collaborations are not suitable for all challenges. As one partner said, “I would urge funders to think very, very carefully before concluding that a collaborative grantmaking body is the answer to deal with any challenge or issue that pops up.”
CAUTIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED TOO LATE

Collaboration among funders needs to be time-limited. Many partners commented that the clarity of the Fund’s focus was very important to them, and the time-limited nature of the Fund helped keep it focused. Some of the compelling reasons to join a collaboration—to learn a lot about a new or unplumbed area, to be part of bringing a focused response to a specific crisis—argue against endless collaboration. Most grantmakers periodically realign their grant commitments to address emerging pressing issues. As collaboration members became more knowledgeable, the precipitating crisis was largely resolved, and the scheduled end of the Fund drew near, funding partners expressed their sense that the collaboration had reached a natural end. This is not to say that the partners lost their enthusiasm or concern for the community and issues they’d been working on. In many cases, initial commitment was much deepened through participation and success.

Concern is acute about whether the partners and other funders will fill the gap caused by the end of the Fund. The immigrant population of the Chicago metropolitan area is growing. New groups arrive, and community resources are regularly in need of development. Groups supported by the Fund have grown, increased their staffing, and expanded their programs, and communities rely on those organizations. The big question on the minds of immigrant-serving nonprofits is whether the Fund’s closing will lead to a reduction of capacity they built with Fund dollars.

Partners worry that many grantees are not adequately prepared to identify, cultivate, and secure replacement funding. While many funders will continue to support immigrant organizations, and some will likely increase such grants, others will not. Despite careful attention to planning and executing a thoughtful exit strategy, only time will tell if the Fund has influenced the field of philanthropy enough, and if nonprofits have been able to use their recent growth to sustain themselves.

Highly valued flexibility possible in collaboration is lost when a collaboration ends. A collaboration’s ability to use its dollars beyond individual partners’ usual scope allows some activities to be supported that might not otherwise have received funding, as much of it, or as simply. Funding for work in Chicago’s suburbs is illustrative. A severe mismatch persists between the need to develop organizational capacity and competence—for immigrant services, advocacy, and organizing—and foundation dollars available to suburban communities. The

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**Role of Immigration in Illinois Population Change**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April 1, 1990 population</th>
<th>11,430,602</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1999 population</td>
<td>12,128,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-1999 change</td>
<td>697,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net international migration, 1990-1997</td>
<td>384,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International migration as pct. of total change</td>
<td>55.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average international migrants/year</td>
<td>41,516</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Fund’s ability to support suburban groups was very useful, but has left many concerned about how they will raise new dollars to offset the loss of Fund grants. This is especially of concern for newer grassroots groups, which juggle many urgent priorities and have less fundraising experience. The possibility that much that has been built will be lost is worrisome and solutions to this dilemma are elusive.

While the ideal lifespan for a collaborative is a subject open to debate, the Fund’s experience suggests some possibilities. Two years of funding is too brief, especially in areas in which there is more limited organizational experience and capacity and in which there are few if any networks where such groups may share resources and act in concert. This has been evident among organizations that received grants to undo barriers of language and cultural competence in health care. Most are quite new to this work, and have only begun to hone skills and strategies for what promises to be a protracted campaign to secure multidimensional institutional and policy change. The Fund has tried to accelerate their development by adding supplemental grants for training and technical assistance, educational programming, networking meetings, a learning/leaders circle, and a higher than usual degree of involvement by staff.

“I think that five to six years is a good cycle, time for start up and some longer term thinking, to promote incremental development of efforts and to allow grantees to achieve some organic sense of ownership and accomplishment,” reflected one partner.

Tension around finding the balance between too short and too long is probably inevitable. The actual lifespan will ultimately depend on resources. When the Fund’s Steering Committee decided in mid-1999 to extend the Fund another two years, it was with the cautious proviso that sufficient funds be raised to make that sensible. It was with some surprise that we found that very generous local support more than offset the end in 1999 of Emma Lazarus Fund’s large scale support.

Lean operating costs mean collaborations must eschew some important possibilities. The Steering Committee faced many choices along the way, but the path most regretfully chosen was to limit support of new and emerging organizations. Despite recognizing that new immigrant communities are constantly being created, the Fund’s members believed they did not have the wherewithal to responsibly assist most very small and very new groups. The need for grants and other supports to assist the newest and least organized immigrant communities requires continuing philanthropic attention and creativity.

A missed opportunity: more direct contact between grantees and partners would have been wise. The Steering Committee decided early on that site visits would be conducted by staff. While members were not prohibited from participating, neither were they encouraged. One partner noted that this lessened her attachment to the groups, since it’s usually in such meetings that organizations come alive for the reviewer. Another member noted that receiving copies of all midyear and final progress reports from all grantees would have been desirable, thus increasing his insight into organizations’ growth and progress. Given how important it is that partners maintain or increase their commitment to immigrant
funding after the life of the Fund, or encourage colleagues to do so, mechanisms fostering greater relationship do seem in order.

**A missed opportunity: confronting the demands of multiple reporting.** The Fund was fortunate to have all its partners agree to pool their contributions and to allow grantees to provide all progress reports to the Fund only, rather than to various partners. This was a huge boon to grantees. Reporting to the Fund was designed to hold groups accountable, to share lessons learned, and to highlight problems and accomplishments. “Reporting was reasonable, applicable, time and cost efficient, and trusting,” said one grantee.

Doubtless, each of the Fund’s partners created its reporting requirements intended to embody all those qualities. The Fund—its a grantee of its 27 partners—was required by many partners to report to them. This was rather burdensome. A handful of funders allowed their participation on the Steering Committee and the Fund’s renewal requests to take the place of periodic progress reports. But most asked the Fund to report as they do all grantees. This resulted in a tickler calendar familiar to all nonprofits with multiple foundation grants: more or less monthly reports, covering different time periods (thus needing constant modification), most in slightly different formats, and many with a mandatory list of idiosyncratic questions to be answered.

Rather than asking the partners to treat the Fund differently (better) than its other grantees, staff regrets not having talked forthrightly with the partners about the costs of this system. Conversation could have been joined about the status quo, and what alternatives might be available. Beyond the value to the Fund, any changes would have been a good legacy for other grantees.

It seems apt for the Fund to end this essay with a comment from a leader of a local immigrant-serving organization, a recipient of multiple Fund grants. Very experienced in collaborating with community-based organizations, she wrote, when asked to name what lessons grantmakers might learn from the Fund:

1. Be flexible.
2. Be accessible.
3. Build alliances with government entities.
4. Encourage growth and development of leaders.
5. Stay on top of current issues.
6. View the collaboration as a resource.
7. View the collaboration as a player in the community.
8. Educate your funding partners and your funded projects.
9. Bring funded projects together in a neutral space for sharing and learning.
10. Exert your power to make things happen.

Best wishes in your collaborations!

Alice Cottingham
Executive Director
Grants awarded December 1997

Citizenship Assistance

Arab American Action Network. A grant of $20,000 to support the development of new citizenship services for members of the Arab immigrant community on the south side of Chicago.

Centro de Informacion. For 26 years, Centro de Informacion has been addressing the needs of a growing Latino community in Elgin. A grant of $40,000 will enable Centro to add a full-time citizenship specialist to assist immigrants.

Citizenship Empowerment Project of Northeastern Illinois University. Through the Citizenship Empowerment Project, Northeastern Illinois University will partner with UNITE (from the beginning, a union of immigrants) to prepare 150 immigrants to become citizens. The Fund’s grant of $50,000 will support program operations.

Coalition of African, Asian, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois. The Fund awarded $255,000 to the Coalition of African, Asian, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois, an exciting new partnership of 13 immigrant-serving organizations. Together, they will assist with naturalization applications, teach civics and history in English as a Second Language classes, and support applicants with the testing and interviewing process.

The member organizations are: the Cambodian Association of Illinois, Casa Aztlán, Centro Romero, Chinese American Service League, Chinese Mutual Assistance Association, Erie Neighborhood House, Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago, Heartland Alliance, Instituto del Progreso Latino, Korean American Community Services, Korean American Senior Center, Lao American Community Services, and Vietnamese Association of Illinois. (Grant made to Chinese Mutual Aid Association.)

Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly. Through the $60,000 grant awarded by the Fund, 9 member organizations of the Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly will receive training and assistance to provide citizenship services to elderly immigrants.

Deaf Adults Education Access Program. An estimated 1,000 immigrants in Illinois are likely to be eligible to naturalize, but service providers, INS employees, and sign language interpreters are not prepared to meet their needs as citizenship applicants. The Deaf Adults Education Access Program will teach American Sign Language and written English to 50 Deaf students, and train other service providers, with help from a $15,000 grant.

DOMINICAN LITERACY CENTER

Dominican Literacy Center. Located in Aurora, the Dominican Literacy Center teaches citizenship classes that include civics, vocabulary, writing, and interviewing skills to immigrants. The grant of $5,000 will be used to pay small stipends to instructors and to purchase a copier.

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Protection. The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Protection helps community-based organizations develop and maintain high quality naturalization programs. A grant of $28,000 will help the Coalition add a staff associate to its citizenship assistance project.

Interchurch Refugee and Immigration Ministries. With a $20,000 grant, Interchurch Refugee and Immigration Ministries will hire a volunteer coordinator who will recruit, train, and supervise community members through sixteen associated churches and ethnic communities, to supplement and deepen the citizenship education efforts of the organization.

Exodus World Service. A partnership between Exodus World Service and World Relief DuPage will provide innovative community education as well as citizenship services to immigrants through the DuPage Citizenship Project. The $25,000 grant will help support the program’s implementation.
Jewish Vocational Service.
In a collaborative effort, Jewish Vocational Service and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society serve older and disabled refugees. The Fund’s grant of $35,000 will be used to support the continuation of pre-citizenship classes and a citizenship hotline.

Latino Organization of the Southwest.
The Latino Organization of the Southwest (LOS) provides citizenship classes at their office and at local churches and businesses. With a $30,000 grant, LOS will enhance its programming. (The grant is made to Southwest Youth Collaborative.)

Legal Services Center for Immigrants of Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago.
With a $35,000 grant, the Legal Services Center plans to add a paralegal to conduct outreach to high schools and community based organizations, and provide legal advice and representation to immigrants in the citizenship process.

Midwest Immigrants Rights Center of Heartland Alliance.
The $60,000 grant to the Midwest Immigrants Rights Center (MIRC) will support new staff to provide legal consultation and technical training to community-based organizations, enabling them to screen for complex naturalization cases that require skilled and experienced legal counsel. MIRC will also directly represent or counsel such applicants when needed.

Polish American Association.
The $25,000 grant from the Fund will support the continued operation of the Citizenship Information Line for Polish immigrants.

Pui Tak Center.
Based on a survey of students in its ESL classes, the Pui Tak Center in Chinatown is adding citizenship services deemed urgently important. The $30,000 grant from the Fund will support program expansion.

Sin Fronteras Law Program.
With a grant of $20,000 from the Fund, the Sin Fronteras Law Program will add a set of new and expanded naturalization legal services for immigrants, mostly Mexican, living in the eastern part of West Town.

United Neighborhood Organization.
The Fund’s grant of $40,000 will be used to support the operations of the Active Citizenship Campaign of the United Neighborhood Organization.

World Relief-Chicago.
The grant of $65,000 will enable World Relief-Chicago to build on its established services, and share its expertise to develop the capacity of Meadows Community Services of Rolling Meadows to provide citizenship assistance.

YWCA of Elgin.
With Elgin Community College and Literacy Connection, the YWCA of Elgin plans to use its grant of $30,000 to increase its citizenship instructional services and to add a training and technical assistance component.

ADVOCACY

Poverty Law Project of National Clearinghouse for Legal Services.
The Fund’s grant of $45,000 to the Poverty Law Project is in support of legal advocacy to protect the rights of immigrants in Illinois during this era of welfare reform.

Grants awarded June 1998

LEGAL SERVICES

Casa Aztlan.
A grant of $26,000 to support additional legal services in Pilsen, Harvey, and possibly Waukegan, through informational materials, direct services, legal clinics, and technical assistance to local community organizations.

Centro Romero.
A grant of $39,500 to assist Guatemalan and Salvadoran refugees to apply for political asylum and suspension of deportation under the ABC program.
Legal Services Center for Immigrants of Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago.
A grant of $47,500 to increase services to immigrant battered women self-petitioning for status adjustment under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), through direct services and outreach and training to community organizations.

Life Span.
A grant of $41,000 to support an attorney’s work with immigrant battered women, including VAWA cases.

Midwest Immigrant Rights Center of Heartland Alliance.
A grant of $50,000 to expand service to INS detainees, both minors and adults.

World Relief–Chicago.
A grant of $36,000 to support an immigration attorney and an expansion of legal services on the north side of Chicago and the northern and northwest suburbs.

World Relief–DuPage.
A grant of $40,000 to increase legal assistance to immigrants in DuPage county, Elgin, and Aurora.

ADVOCACY

Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women’s Network.
A grant of $26,500 to increase and enhance services for immigrant battered women through networking, training, and ongoing collaboration between immigrant rights and anti-domestic violence organizations.

Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly.
A grant of $15,000 in support of federal, state, and local advocacy on a range of issues of importance to the constituents of 36 member organizations, as well as organizing the participation of elderly immigrants.

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
A grant of $35,000 in support of federal, state, and local direct advocacy and training and mobilization of the organizational membership.

Taylor Institute.
A grant of $18,500 to convene and coordinate a Sweatshop Working Group of labor, immigrant, religious, and government groups to define the research and policy issues, create a research design, and collect data on Chicago area sweatshops.

ADVOCACY AND LEGAL SERVICES

SSI Coalition for a Responsible Safety Net.
A grant of $15,000 to provide legal assistance and legislative, administrative, and legal advocacy on behalf of elderly and disabled noncitizens.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Coalition of African, Asian, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois.
A grant of $50,000 to support planning, assessment, and development of capacity within the Coalition that would institutionalize community organizing and united action in social service organizations that attract many immigrants.

(Grant made to Chinese Mutual Aid Association.)

Interfaith Leadership Project of Cicero, Berwyn, and Stickney.
A grant of $20,000 as support for organizing around the “Right to Read” campaign, violence prevention, and leadership development.

Korean American Resource and Cultural Center.
A grant of $10,000 to strengthen and expand the Civil Rights Project, which educates, advocates for, and mobilizes Korean Americans on key issues affecting immigrants, such as welfare benefits, campaign finance reform, the naturalization backlog, language rights, and multi-ethnic coalition building.

Arnold Mireles Center for Human Rights.
A grant of $75,000 to support a collaborative effort among 8 partner organizations to defend the rights of immigrants in the city and suburbs by training Human Rights Promoters to document human rights abuses; conducting a community education and awareness
campaign; and mobilizing community response to human and civil rights violations. (Grant made to Health Advocacy Project of Little Village.)

The Resurrection Project.
A grant of $25,000 in support of its institution-based organizing campaign around ESL education in Pilsen, Little Village, and Back of the Yards.

Grants awarded December 1998

CITIZENSHIP SERVICES

Arab American Action Network.
A renewal grant of $25,000 supports the continuation of the Citizenship Program, begun last year with a grant from the Fund.

Centro Cristo Rey.
Centro Cristo Rey in Aurora provides a range of immigration services. The Fund’s $23,000 grant will help expand the naturalization program’s capacity.

Centro de Informacion.
The only agency recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the Fox Valley region, Centro de Informacion in Elgin received a renewal grant of $30,000.

Citizenship Empowerment Project of Northeastern Illinois University.
With a renewal grant of $50,000 from the Fund, UNITE and the Worker Education Program of NEIU co-sponsor a program of citizenship education, with classes held in worksites in Kane, Lake, and Cook Counties and at the UNITE hall.

Coalition of African, Asian, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois.
This Coalition of 13 multi-ethnic service organizations helps a diverse group of immigrants and refugees become U.S. citizens, while strengthening the services of its member agencies, and advocating on behalf of and with immigrants. The Fund’s second citizenship grant—for $300,000—supports members’ instructional and case assistance work, the Coalition’s coordinator, and administration by Chinese Mutual Assistance Association. (Grant made to Chinese Mutual Aid Association.)

Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly.
a grant of $77,000 will continue a technical assistance and service reimbursement project for five member organizations that work with would-be citizens: American Association of Jews from the Former USSR, Assyrian National Council of Illinois, Metropolitan Asian Family Services, Social Service Association for Neighborhood Arab American Development, and the South-East Asia Center.

Deaf Adults Education Access Program.
A renewal grant of $20,000 will help support the development of a specialized curriculum for teaching ASL, written English, and citizenship-specific information to Deaf and hard of hearing immigrants.

Interchurch Refugee and Immigration Ministries.
The renewed $20,000 grant from the Fund will provide continuing support to the tutoring program for immigrants seeking to become U.S. citizens.

Jewish Vocational Service.
A grant of $25,000 will continue support of pre-citizenship English instruction to elderly and disabled refugees from the former Soviet Union.

Latino Organization of the Southwest.
A community based organization serving Chicago Lawn, Gage Park, West Lawn, and West Elsdon, the Latino Organization of the Southwest received renewed support of $35,000 for its citizenship program. (The grant is made to Southwest Youth Collaborative.)

Legal Services Center for Immigrants of Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago.
A renewal grant from the Fund of $44,000 supports outreach to immigrants with special or problematic cases, and legal representation.
primarily of immigrants with disabilities.

**Polish American Association.**
A second grant of $25,000 helps support the Citizenship Information Line of the Polish American Association, which has received nearly 30,000 calls in the past 48 months.

**Pui Tak Center.**
A grant of $35,000 supports English classes to many of Chinatown’s newest immigrants, Chinese restaurant workers, mothers at home, and elders.

**SIGA Center of Childserv.**
In Waukegan, Childserv’s SIGA Center has served the growing immigrant population since late 1992 with immigration and naturalization services. The $20,000 grant from the Fund will help support citizenship application services.

**World Relief-DuPage/West Suburban Citizenship Coalition.**
In collaboration with Exodus World Service, College of DuPage, and West Chicago High School, World Relief-DuPage will continue to help immigrants in and near DuPage County successfully apply for and complete the citizenship process. The Fund awarded a grant of $25,000.

**IMMIGRANTS WITH DISABILITIES RIGHTS ADVOCACY**

**Access Living.**
A grant of $55,000 will help Access Living and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights collaborate to begin the Immigrants with Disabilities Rights Project.

**CENSUS 2000 PROJECTS**

**Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.**
A $30,000 grant was made for the Don’t Count Me Out project. Census Bureau data suggest that half of the 10 million people undercounted nationwide in 1990 were immigrants and children.

**Township H.S. District 214 Community Education.**
The Fund made a planning grant of $5,000 to District 214 in support of preparation for Census 2000 in the northwest suburbs.

**ADVOCACY RELATED TO THE IMPACT OF WELFARE REFORM ON IMMIGRANTS**

**Poverty Law Project of National Clearinghouse for Legal Services.**
A second Fund grant of $45,000 will help the Poverty Law Project advocate, analyze, and educate on a variety of policy fronts related to welfare reform, including an attempt to establish that the current ban on providing life-sustaining subsistence assistance to non-citizens, with few exceptions, is unconstitutional.

**Grants awarded June 1999**

**LEGAL SERVICES**

**Centro Romero.**
A renewal grant of $39,500 for the Latin American Legal Assistance Services program, to assist Guatemalan and Salvadoran asylum seekers.
Chicago Legal Clinic, Inc.
A grant of $19,000 for the Immigration Project, to support increased immigration legal services by staff to Pilsen residents.

DePaul College of Law Legal Clinic.
A start-up grant of $20,000 to support an expansion of community legal and technical assistance for advocates representing refugees and immigrants through the Legal Clinic model, in partnership with two to three community based organizations.

Legal Services Center for Immigrants of Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago.
A renewal grant of $50,000 to support immigration legal services to immigrant battered women, and to reach out to and train immigrants’ and battered women’s programs in the collar counties.

Midwest Immigrants Rights Center of Heartland Alliance.
A renewal grant of $63,000 to support immigration legal services to youth and adults in detention, and training for criminal defense attorneys on the immigration consequences of certain pleadings.

Sin Fronteras Law Project.
A renewal grant of $20,000 to support immigration legal services in West Town.

World Relief–DuPage.
A renewal grant of $25,000 to support immigration legal services in DuPage County and Aurora.

ADVOCACY

Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly.
A renewal grant of $30,000 for advocacy to benefit elderly immigrants and refugees.

Exodus World Service.
A grant of $17,600 to support advocacy by community volunteers with and on behalf of immigrants and refugees.

CENSUS 2000 PROJECTS

Asian American Institute.
A grant of $17,000 for census 2000 work in pan-Asian communities.

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
Two grants. One—a renewal grant of $40,000—to support the Public Policy Advocacy Project. The second grant provides $75,000 to augment an earlier grant supporting the Don’t Count Me Out census project of the Coalition.

Spanish Center, Inc.
A grant of $33,435 to support a census 2000 project in Joliet.

Township H.S. District 214 Community Education.
A grant of $16,000 to support a census 2000 project in the north-west suburbs. The grant builds on a planning grant awarded last fall.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING/ACTION

Coalition of African, Asian, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois.
A renewal grant of $50,000 to support organizing by four member organizations of CAALII. (The grant is made to Chinese Mutual Aid Association.)

Interfaith Leadership Project of Cicero, Berwyn, and Stickney.
A renewal grant of $25,000 to support community organizing.

Arnold Mireles Center for Human Rights.
A renewal grant of $75,000 to support organizing that defends the rights of Latino immigrants in the city of Chicago and surrounding suburbs. (The grant is made to the Health Advocacy Project of Little Village.)
Grants awarded
December 1999

CITIZENSHIP SERVICES

African Community
United Methodist Church.
$5,000 to support citizenship services for sub-Saharan Africans.

Albany Park
Community Center.
$10,000 for citizenship classes and case assistance.

Arab American
Action Network.
$20,000 in support of continued ESL and civics classes for Arab women preparing to naturalize.

Centro Cristo Rey.
$25,000 for continued citizenship classes and application assistance in Aurora.

Centro de Informacion.
$25,000 to support sustained naturalization application assistance and case advocacy in Elgin.

Coalition of African, Asian, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois.
$224,000 in support of continued citizenship education and case assistance, as well as technical assistance to and coordinated advocacy by the thirteen member organizations: Cambodian Association of Illinois, Casa Aztlán, Centro Romero, Chinese American Service League, Chinese Mutual Aid Association, Erie Neighborhood House, Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago, Heartland Alliance/ TIA Connections, Instituto del Progreso Latino, Korean American Community Services, Korean American Senior Center, Lao American Community Services, and Vietnamese Association of Illinois. (Grant made to Chinese Mutual Aid Association.)

Deaf Adult Education Access Program.
$20,000 for continuing support of citizenship and American Sign Language instruction, as well as case and community advocacy for Deaf and hard of hearing immigrants.

Exodus World Service.
$20,000 in support of the West Suburban Citizenship Coalition, to provide application assistance, in-home tutoring, and community outreach.

Indo-American Center.
$10,000 for naturalization application services primarily to Indian and Pakistani immigrants.

Jewish Vocational Service.
$12,500 to continue pre-citizenship education for elderly and disabled refugees from the former Soviet Union.

Latino Organization of the Southwest.
$30,000 to support continued citizenship and ESL classes, and the addition of a community outreach campaign. (Grant made to Southwest Youth Collaborative.)

Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago.
$35,000 to continue legal representation of immigrants with disability waiver applications and litigation in federal court on behalf of multiple individuals who encounter similar problems with naturalization cases.

Midwest Asian American Center.
$7,500 in support of this new community organization’s citizenship education services in Hindi, Gujarati, Sindhi, and English.

Polish American Association.
$28,000 renewal support of citizenship information and counseling services to the Polish community.

Pui Tak Center.
$15,000 to continue support of citizenship education in Chinatown.
**CITIZENSHIP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**Literacy Works.** $5,000 to renew support of literacy training to volunteers recruited by twenty-one member organizations and four affiliates, the majority of which are immigrant-serving organizations. (Grant made to Organization of the Northeast.)

**Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center of the Heartland Alliance.** $25,000 to continue support of a citizenship program that provides technical assistance to community based organizations on the legal complexities of naturalization, and direct representation of naturalization applicants.

**CITIZENSHIP-RELATED ADVOCACY**

**Access Living.** $40,000 to support the continuation of the Immigrants with Disabilities Rights Project, in collaboration with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

**National Center on Poverty Law.** $30,000 to continue administrative, legislative, and legal advocacy related to the impact of welfare reform on immigrants.

**Grants awarded June 2000**

**LEGAL SERVICES**

**Centro Romero.** $35,500 for Latin American Legal Assistance Services, helping Salvadoran and Guatemalan immigrants adjust their immigration status under the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act.

**Chicago Legal Clinic.** $20,000 for the Immigration Program, located in Pilsen. The program provides direct legal services, pro bono representation through volunteer attorneys, and free legal seminars for community groups.

**Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago—Legal Services Center for Immigrants.** $45,000 to provide legal services to battered immigrant women and children through advice and legal representation for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) petitions, as well as associated areas of family law, public benefits, and domestic violence.

**Life Span.** $25,000 for the Immigrant Battered Women’s Project, providing basic, direct legal services on both immigration and domestic violence issues.

**Midwest Immigrants & Human Rights Center of Heartland Alliance.** $57,000 to respond to the legal needs of detained immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, both adults and unaccompanied children.

**World Relief—DuPage.** $31,500 for the Immigrant Services Program, the only non-profit program in DuPage County, and one of a limited number of programs in Aurora, offering legal immigration assistance to an under-served population, particularly of low-income clients.

**ADVOCACY**

**Center for Impact Research.** Two grants. First, $25,000 for continued support of the Sweatshop Project, with the goal that education, outreach, and enforcement activities will, over time, lead to a substantive and meaningful change in the extent and severity of sweatshops in immigrant and other communities.

Also, $25,000 for an ESL Needs Assessment from which recommendations will be made to the State of Illinois for implementation of an effective plan for Chicago metropolitan residents whose lack of English language skills hamper employability and naturalization.
Coalition for Limited Speaking Elderly.  
$27,000 for lobbying and advocacy to change three federal public policies. The most vital is passage of legislation that would allow persons age 60 and over to take the citizenship test in their native language, and persons 70 and over to be exempt from the test.

Community Media Workshop.  
$6,000 to be used to update and create media briefing papers on Immigration and Immigrants, for conventional dissemination and addition to an expanded web site.

College of DuPage.  
$35,000 to implement DuPage Community Linkages, in ten county communities with significant multi-ethnic populations of immigrants and refugees.

Exodus World Service.  
$19,000 to continue the Exodus Advocacy Network, designed to link the experiences and perspectives of immigrants and refugees with the voting power and network of established resident volunteers.

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights.  
$50,000 to staff the new legalization campaign to facilitate the passage of broad, new legislation to grant permanent legal residency status to undocumented immigrants.

Korean American Resource & Cultural Center.  
$15,000 in support of the Seniors in Action, a part of the Immigrants Rights Project, to stimulate and support immigrant rights activism among elderly Korean immigrants.

Arnold Mireles Center for Human and Community Rights.  
$60,000 to empower Latino immigrants to establish and operate human and community rights monitoring and action projects. (Grant awarded to PRO.ME.SA Coalition.)

Coalition of African, Asian, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois.  
$40,000 for the Community Building Project, to build organizing capacity within immigrant and refugee communities. (Grant awarded to Chinese Mutual Aid Association.)

Interfaith Leadership Project of Cicero, Berwyn, and Stickney.  
$35,000 to continue organizing conducted in Cicero and Berwyn, with an emphasis on building leadership and collaboration across the various sectors of Cicero’s large Latino community and among emerging leaders in Berwyn.

Grants awarded December 2000

HEALTH ACCESS PROJECTS

Asian Health Coalition of Illinois.  
$38,000 for initial consultation and subsequent project support of Opening Doors, a cultural competence training program for medical residents and other providers in Asian American Pacific Islander communities of Cook, DuPage, and Kane Counties.

Centro Comunitario Juan Diego.  
$41,000 to hire a Director of Health Programs to use community organizing methods to improve and expand health services for immigrants and refugees in South Chicago.

Centro San Bonifacio.  
$44,000 for 2001 and $12,000 for 2002 for Nuestra Cultura, a project to create a sustainable, marketable training package for health care providers and providers-in-training on Latin American health beliefs and practices, and to implement training to at least 300 providers and students in the second year.

Chinese Mutual Aid Association.  
$50,000 for the Suburban Health Outreach Project reaching Chinese elders in DuPage County. The project seeks to meet the needs of individuals as well as to improve overall access. It will offer native language health workshops, interpretation and transportation, and a Chinese language health directory, and will develop a local advisory committee and needs assessment of Chinese elders.
Community Health Partnerships.
$49,200 in support of Project Adelante, to increase access to publicly funded health programs, and promote healthier and safer living and working conditions for Mexican immigrant migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families. The project’s work will be in Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties.

Compañeros en Salud in Collaboration with Provena Mercy Center.
$75,500 in support of Language Access to Healthcare, a project to create and coordinate a pool of trained health interpreters and translators in Aurora. Compañeros is a grassroots network of 58 member organizations serving the people of Aurora, and Provena Mercy Center, a community hospital, will provide substantial administrative support to the project. (Grant made to Provena Mercy Center.)

Cook County Bureau of Health Services.
$40,700 to enhance interpreter services, train staff in cultural competence, and develop a database to identify and track interpretation needs within the Ambulatory and Community Health Network (30 clinics throughout Cook County). (Grant made to Hektoen Institute for Medical Research.)

Health Care Interpreting Service of Heartland Alliance.
$50,000 to help three suburban community organizations develop capacity to train and coordinate health interpreters, expand its own interpreters network to the suburbs, and help suburban health care providers understand patients’ right to interpretation and how to make best use of interpreters’ services.

HealthReach Inc.
$36,600 to educate health care providers in the HealthReach clinic and Lake County about culturally and linguistically appropriate health services, train medical interpreters, and begin to develop an interpretation service and training program.

Illinois Health Education Consortium.
$42,800 to start up the Chicago Spanish Immersion Project to prepare health professionals to serve the fastest growing ethnic group in the United States. The project includes Spanish language instruction and local home-stay with Latino families to develop cultural and language competence.

National Center on Poverty Law.
$55,000 to support legal advocacy efforts to ensure language access rights at health care facilities in metropolitan Chicago for limited English speakers. The project will include consumer and provider education, technical assistance, and policy development and advocacy in collaboration with consumers, advocates, and government agencies to identify and correct language access barriers.

World Relief–DuPage.
$10,000 to the Health Access Project, to create a pool of culturally sensitive, trained bilingual, bicultural health interpreters in DuPage County.

CITIZENSHIP SERVICES

African Community United Methodist Church.
$10,000 to hire a part-time paralegal to assist prospective citizenship applicants.

Albany Park Community Center.
$10,000 for citizenship classes and case assistance.

Arab American Action Network.
$15,000 for ESL and civics instruction for Arab women preparing to naturalize.

Centro Cristo Rey.
$18,750 for citizenship classes and application assistance in Aurora.

Centro de Informacion.
$18,750 for naturalization application assistance and case advocacy in Elgin.
Coalition of African, Asian, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois.
$168,000 for the New American Project’s more extensive citizenship education and case assistance, as well as technical assistance to and coordinated advocacy by fifteen member organizations: Bosnian-Herzegovinian American Community Center, Cambodian Association of Illinois, Casa Aztlan, Centro Romero, Chinese American Service League, Chinese Mutual Aid Association, Erie Neighborhood House, Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago, Heartland Alliance/ Centro de Educacion y Cultura, Indo-American Center, Instituto del Progreso Latino, Korean American Community Services, Korean American Senior Center, Lao American Community Services, and Vietnamese Association of Illinois. (Grant made to Chinese Mutual Aid Association.)

Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly.
$28,500 for technical assistance and reimbursement to support five community-based organizations—American Association of Jews from the Former USSR, Assyrian National Council of Illinois, Bosnian-Herzegovinian American Community Center, Metropolitan Asian Family Services, and South East Asian Center—to assist citizenship applicants with disability waivers, accompany applicants to the INS for interviews, and related case assistance.

Deaf Adults Education Access Program.
$15,000 for support of citizenship and American Sign Language classes, as well as case assistance and community advocacy for Deaf and hard of hearing immigrants and refugees.

Exodus World Service.
$15,000 in support of the West Suburban Citizenship Coalition, to provide application assistance, in-home tutoring, and community outreach.

Indo-American Center.
$10,000 for naturalization application services.

Jewish Vocational Service.
$9,375 for pre-citizenship education for elderly and disabled refugees from the former Soviet Union.

Latino Organization of the Southwest.
$15,000 to support citizenship and ESL classes and citizenship outreach. (Grant made to Southwest Youth Collaborative.)

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago.
$26,250 for legal counseling and representation of immigrants with disability waiver applications and other citizenship applicants, as well as suburban community outreach.

Midwest Asian American Center.
$7,500 for citizenship education in Hindi, Gujarati, Sindhi, and English.

Polish American Association.
$21,000 for citizenship information and counseling services to the Polish community.

Pui Tak Center.
$12,500 for citizenship education in Chinatown.

Pui Tak Center.
$12,500 for citizenship education in Chinatown.

CITIZENSHIP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Literacy Works.
$5,000 to support literacy training of volunteers recruited by 15 immigrant-serving member organizations offering citizenship services. (Grant made to Organization of the NorthEast.)

Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center of Heartland Alliance.
$18,750 in support of legal services to citizenship applicants, and technical assistance and outreach to community-based organizations.

CITIZENSHIP-RELATED ADVOCACY

Access Living.
$30,000 for continuation of the Immigrants with Disabilities Rights Project, in collaboration with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
Grants awarded
June 2001

LEGAL SERVICES

Centro Romero.
$35,500 for legal services for Salvadorans and Guatemalans, including those applying for political asylum and suspension of deportation.

Chicago Legal Clinic.
$20,000 for the Immigration Program, located in Pilsen. The program provides direct legal services, pro bono representation through volunteer attorneys, and free legal seminars for community groups.

Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago–Legal Services Center for Immigrants.
$45,000 to provide legal services to battered immigrant women and children through advice and legal representation for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) petitions, as well as associated areas of family law, public benefits, and domestic violence.

Life Span.
$25,000 for the Immigrant Battered Women’s Project, providing basic, direct legal services on both immigration and domestic violence issues.

Midwest Immigrants and Human Rights Center of Heartland Alliance.
$57,000 to respond to the legal needs of detained immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, both adults and unaccompanied children.

World Relief–Chicago.
$20,000 to expand immigration-related services in Cicero.

World Relief–DuPage.
$31,500 for the Immigrant Services Program, for services in DuPage County and Aurora.

ADVOCACY

Center for Impact Research.
Two grants. First, $25,000 for the Sweatshop Project, to assure collaboration among Latino, Polish, and Chinese immigrant communities, with the Department of Labor, to address sweatshop violations and reduce their incidence.

Also, $25,000 for the ESL Project, to complete work to research best practices in delivery of ESL instruction to working poor immigrant families, outline an advocacy agenda, and educate about the need to implement it.

Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly.
$5,500 in support of three months planning work related to advocacy on federal and state policy of importance to older immigrants and refugees.

College of DuPage–DuPage Community Linkages.
$30,000 to continue and enhance DuPage Community Linkages—a network of immigrant-serving organizations in DuPage County—including the development of advocacy skills among participating organizations.

Exodus World Service.
$17,600 to continue to build the Exodus Advocacy Network, that links the experiences and perspectives of immigrants and refugees with the voting power and network of established residents.

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
$50,000 to continue the Legalization Campaign.

Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities.
$15,000 to support an analysis of the use by suburban municipalities of zoning and building codes and enforcement to discriminate against suburban immigrants.
Arnold Mireles Center for Human and Community Rights.
$60,000 to empower Latino immigrants to establish and operate human and community rights monitoring and action projects. (Grant awarded to PRO.ME.SA Coalition.)

Community Organizing
Coalition of African, Asian, European, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois.
$40,000 to continue the Community Building Project, with 10 partner organizations. (Grant awarded to Chinese Mutual Aid Association.)

Interfaith Leadership Project.
$35,000 to continue community organizing campaigns and leadership development in Cicero.

Grants awarded December 2001

Health Access Projects

Apna Ghar.
$15,000 for program planning and development to increase multi-lingual access to immigrant and refugee victims of domestic violence, by training and supporting multi-lingual, multi-cultural advocates who will be able to provide crisis services to women in a variety of underserved communities.

Asian Health Coalition of Illinois.
$38,000 for the Opening Doors project, to provide cultural competence training to medical providers and health care administrators in areas of the Chicago suburbs where significant populations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders reside.

Chinese Mutual Aid Association.
$50,000 to address the inadequate health care available to many Chinese immigrants and refugees living in the western suburbs, resulting from language and cultural barriers. To overcome these, CMAA provides trained medical interpreters, will develop a “Know Your Rights” campaign, and train members of its Board of Advisors—respected business leaders and professionals in the western suburbs—to conduct outreach and education with other organizations, social groups, and churches within the Chinese community.

Community Health Partnership of Illinois.
$49,650 to support Project Adelante, teaching health access advocacy to promotores de salud in their work with fellow farmworkers, and by working directly with public health organizations and private health providers in the collar counties to enable these entities and individuals to more effectively meet the needs of the migrant farmworker population in their service areas.

Compañeros en Salud in collaboration with Mercy Provena Center.
$65,000 to be used for program implementation and organizational development. The Language Access Healthcare project recruits, trains, and deploys health care interpreters to work with the 70 member organizations of Compañeros en Salud, as well as other health care providers. The project is to promote equal and meaningful access to health care services through language assistance and advocacy, in a community in which the 2000 United Way Needs Assessment identified language access as one of the ten top issues facing the Aurora area.

HealthReach Inc.
$36,550 to support a training program for medical interpreters for HealthReach patients, and to develop a program to provide medical interpretation services in Lake County and educate health care providers about culturally and linguistically appropriate health care services. The grant will also support professional development for the project manager.
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
$25,000 in support of advocacy to increase culturally and linguistically accessible health care for immigrants and refugees at the local, state, and national levels.

Illinois Health Education Consortium.
$42,800 for Bridges to Health: Spanish Language and Cultural Immersion Program that integrates language instruction, cultural awareness, and home stays with Latino immigrant host families in an intensive immersion program that allows participants to experience at a deep, personal level the relationship between language, culture, values, and history. The program is directed to health and social service professionals, students, and Chicago Health Corps volunteers.

Loyola University of Chicago–McNamara Center for the Social Study of Religion.
$24,200 in support of a project entitled “Enhancing Access to Culturally Competent Health Care for Buddhist and Hindu Patients.” An internet web page, workshops and programs, and a network of on-call consultation will be developed and piloted in multiple sites, and are to be a model for health care providers both within and beyond the Loyola University Health System.

National Center on Poverty Law.
$40,000 to focus on three strategic areas: to obtain at least a maintenance level of funding and permanent authorization for two state programs that provide $2 million in funding that directly and substantially increases immigrant access to culturally and linguistically accessible health care; to research, analyze, and publish an article developing theories of financial motivation for hospitals and other providers to implement language assistance programs, as well as possible approaches for obtaining public funding; and to review language access policies and practices of the state agency that administers health-related public benefit programs, to identify gaps in services and advocate for a comprehensive program of services.

Sherman Hospital.
$27,750 to the Cross Cultural Communications department to develop a translation process that will effectively serve the diverse Latino patient population in Elgin and the surrounding community served by Sherman Hospital. The primary needs to be addressed are increasing equal access and quality of care for limited English speaking patients.

Westlake Hospital.
$25,000 to build on a project at Westlake Hospital to respond more fully to the language and cultural needs of its Latino patient population, by creating a standardized medical interpreting training program and manual that can meet the needs of other Resurrection Health Care sites. In the next year, the program will be used at Our Lady of the Resurrection Hospital, which serves many Polish and Latino patients.

World Relief–Chicago.
$11,300 for a year-long staff development and training program to enhance and strengthen the mental health services provided to refugees through the Horizons Clinic. The program is to strengthen a model of care that employs direct service staff—who are themselves refugees who can dismantle the linguistic and cultural barriers found in traditional mental health clinics—by improving their clinical skills.


Reports


**Suburban Immigrant Communities: Assessments of Key Characteristics and Needs**, by Rob Paral, August 2000. A report on the immigrant population in metro Chicago suburbs, movement into new areas, immigrant assets, socioeconomic gaps, health care issues, negative attitudes towards immigrants in some communities, and steps to addressing the needs of suburban immigrants. A wall map showing immigration patterns in the suburbs is also available. Funding provided by Community Memorial Foundation and Grand Victoria Foundation. Second printing supported by the Polk Bros. Foundation.


All reports available at: http://www.donorsforum.org
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Karen Popowski, Polish American Association
Sierra Collins-Jackson, 
Program Assistant
Alice Cottingham, Executive Director
Lawrence Benito, 
Student Intern (spring 1998)

Jennifer McDonough, Program Officer 
of the Michael Reese Health Trust and 
Ruth Ann Schimdt, Executive Director 
of the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois, 
were additional readers.
Support Revenues & Expenses

FY98–FY03*

Support Revenues
Contributions . . . . . . . . . . . . . $6,807,125
Interest . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 219,550
Total. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $7,026,675

Expenses
Grants** . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $6,287,200
Programming for health grantees & all reports . . . . . . . . 65,550
Operating. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 673,925
Total. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $7,026,675

*The Fund will be staffed part-time through February 2003, when all grants will have ended.

**Takes into account the rescission of two grants and partial return of another.

Figures based on audit FY98-01 data, and estimated FY02 and FY03 data. Full audited statements appear in annual reports of the Donors Forum of Chicago, the sponsoring organization.
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A copy of the March 1999 evaluation
by Ruth Belzer of the grantmaking and
governance processes of the Fund
is available upon request.
Copies of the five reports produced for the Fund
are available on our website.

For further information, please call or write:

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(Calls and emails will be answered through February 2003.
No grants will be awarded after May 2002.)
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