

## 2015 Midwest Region Year-End Recap

NCLR and its Affiliate Network help build a stronger America by creating opportunities for Latinos. Together, NCLR’s national influence and Affiliates’ local expertise elevate the Latino voice, build new connections, and open doors in a more powerful and effective way than if each of us acted alone. As we move into 2016, let’s take a look back at some of what we accomplished in 2015.

### Midwest Snapshot

The Midwest Affiliate Network is home to 55 Affiliate community-based organizations across 13 states.

#### Midwest Affiliate Profile

\$264 Million

Combined Agency Budget

5,296

Employees

3.1 Million

Clients Served



## Recognizing Our Midwest Affiliates

NCLR is proud of its Affiliates and the work they do to empower communities. In 2015, we were pleased to recognize their contributions and celebrate these specific achievements:



**Erie Neighborhood House** was recognized as the 2015 Midwest Affiliate of the Year.

**Guadalupe Centers, Inc.** received one of two Family Strengthening Awards for their education systems.

**Esperanza Health Center** in Chicago, Illinois, and **Voces** in Battle Creek, Michigan, were among the 10 organizations to join the NCLR Affiliate Network in 2015.

## *¡PRESENTE!*

As a convener of Latino leadership, NCLR strengthens Affiliates' ability to succeed by providing a platform for peer-to-peer collaboration and connecting leaders to share and replicate best practices throughout the year. Using NCLR national recognition and visibility, we showcase Affiliates highlighting their unique attributes, program models, and expertise. NCLR featured a different Affiliate each month through the Affiliate Spotlight blog series, which received more than **80,000 views**.

Below are 2015 highlights of NCLR-Affiliate community leadership convenings:

- Over 80 representatives of 56 distinct Affiliates attended the Affiliate Leadership Summit in Washington, DC, to learn best practices and strengthen their capacity on immigration legal services and prepare for administrative relief.
- For the eighth consecutive year, NCLR and its Affiliate Council presented the Affiliate Leadership Breakfast where more than 300 nonprofit leaders connected and heard an Affiliate-led panel share strategies for leading a successful social enterprise—a topic identified and prioritized by Affiliates.
- The Far West and Midwest Fall Regional Convening brought together 43 Affiliate organizations in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for two days of dynamic discussions, peer exchanges, and relevant trainings. We shared updates on administrative relief and civic engagement, learned from Southeast Affiliate Latin American Youth Center on how they created and leveraged their youth development model for success and sustainability, participated in breakout discussions on health, workforce development, and the power of Latino millennials, and received training on communication tools and strategies specifically for Affiliates. NCLR President and CEO Janet Murguía also joined us and reflected on the past 10 years of NCLR investment in the NCLR/Affiliate relationship, highlighted priorities guiding the organization into its 50th anniversary, and engaged in a robust discussion with Affiliates about the future of NCLR and the NCLR/Affiliate partnership.

## Expanding Affiliate Ability

NCLR program and policy staff collaborated with Affiliates to support their growth and ability to serve and advocate for Latino families.



The following programs and annual events highlight just some of the many ways NCLR adds value to Affiliates' efforts to create opportunities for Latino families.\*

\*The information included in this recap is intended to show a snapshot of NCLR activities and is not a comprehensive list of all grant opportunities and trainings.

### EDUCATION

Deepening our investment in developing the next generation of leaders, NCLR launched three new programs: the Latino Men of Action initiative—which examines how ideas of masculinity shape students' self-efficacy—and two college readiness programs, *Early Escalera* (for ninth graders) and *Líderes Avanzando* (for college retention). Combined, NCLR is bridging gaps in programming across the educational spectrum preparing our future leaders at an early age for college and career success. NCLR Affiliates were also instrumental in a major policy victory for Latino children: securing passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which stands to benefit the 12 million Latino students in U.S. schools and 5 million English learners.

### HEALTH

As part of the *Comprando Rico y Sano* project, NCLR and its subgrantee Affiliates trained 230 *promotores de salud* and educated nearly 50,000 Latinos via face-to-face discussions about nutrition, helping families build healthy eating habits. Additionally, 14,500 Latino households now have access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) because of the culturally competent enrollment assistance they received through NCLR Affiliates.

## HOUSING

NCLR's investment of almost \$3 million in Housing and Community Development programs and services made it possible for Affiliates to provide counseling services to over 40,000 families on critical issues like pre- and post-purchase counseling, mortgage modifications, and mortgage delinquencies. Additionally, the NCLR Homeownership Network provided financial, budgeting, and money-management services to empower Latinos to make informed choices and improve their financial well-being.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Over 2,000 adults became more competitive in the workforce as a result of NCLR's investment in Affiliate job training programs, with 33 grants in 2015. In addition to ongoing technical assistance to those grantees, another 27 Affiliates from across the country attended NCLR's Workforce Development Bridge Curriculum

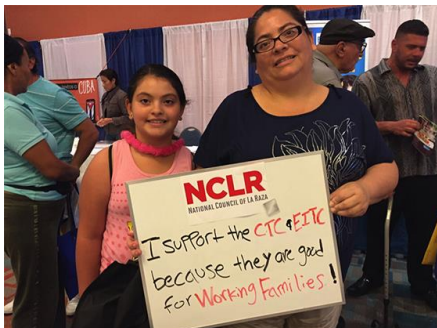
Training and received intensive training that allowed them to introduce NCLR's workforce curriculum into their existing programs.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

NCLR's civic engagement work focused on providing Affiliates technical assistance in incorporating voter registration and advocacy into their existing programs. Nearly 300 Latino leaders from across the country participated in the 2015 NCLR National Latino Advocacy Days on March 4 in Washington, DC. Participants, including nearly 100 youth from *Líderes Congreso*, participated in advocacy training and carried out more than 100 meetings with their congressional representatives to advocate for President Obama's administrative relief actions.



## WEALTH-BUILDING



NCLR led a successful campaign to protect vital tax credits for working families, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC), hosting several community forums and press events in partnership with Affiliates. In December, NCLR celebrated the permanent extension of the EITC and CTC – a major policy victory that would not have been possible without the engagement and voices of NCLR Affiliates.

In another effort to protect Latino families, NCLR garnered more than 4,000 signatures in support of payday lending reform and collected many stories of Latino families falling into debt traps due to predatory payday lending. NCLR is working with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to ensure there are rules to protect families from falling further into debt.

## IMMIGRATION

NCLR kept pressure on Washington throughout 2015 to act on comprehensive immigration reform, producing press events, blog posts, media appearances, writing editorials, and featuring stories of families impacted by the current broken immigration system. In anticipation of expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the implementation of the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program, NCLR provided technical assistance to Affiliates to shore up their immigration legal services programs through webinars, trainings, and peer-to-peer connections. NCLR also unveiled **Immigo 2.0**, a mobile app designed to give service providers the most up-to-date information about changing immigration laws and policies, with nearly 3,000 downloads to date.



## Amplifying Affiliate Voice

In addition to the above highlights, NCLR and Affiliates around the country have also forged ahead in new and revitalized movements impacting Latino families. Our collective voice has been heard on important issues such as **technology**, **smart justice reform**, and **youth leadership**. Affiliates have been instrumental in the development of these portfolios providing expertise, voice, and perspective much needed in discussions of policies, solutions, and actions.

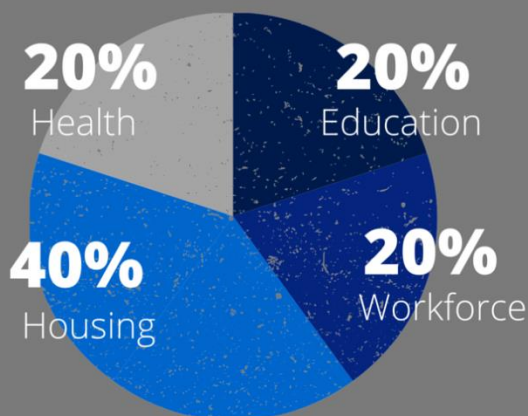
# INVESTING IN THE AFFILIATE NETWORK

NCLR grew the impact of our Affiliate Network by helping Affiliates implement innovative programs and expand existing operations.\*

**2015  
NCLR  
Investment**

**\$ 7,600,000 +**

## GRANTS BY PROGRAM AREA



\*Figures include most major program grants awarded in FY15. Figures are not inclusive of all NCLR investments made in the year such as Affiliate trainings, travel stipends awards, small subgrants, or pilot grants.



### What's Ahead?

As we start 2016, NCLR will continue to work with Affiliates by:

- **Developing Latino leaders** through capacity-building trainings, peer-to-peer collaboration, and convening Latino community leadership.
- **Advancing the Latino vote** through citizenship and civic participation through education, registration, GOTV efforts, and advocacy.
- **Integrating immigrants** through programs such as DAPA/DACA and continuing to work on immigration reform.
- **Creating economic opportunities** by protecting the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, and fighting for payday lending reform.
- **Advocating for Health Reforms** that expand the number of Latino opportunities with access to health coverage such as Medicaid expansion and the Affordable Care Act.

## The Midwest Regional Team

Along with the leadership and dedication of the Midwest Affiliate Council Representatives, Marylou Mason and Michael Rodriguez, NCLR's Chicago-based team supports the work of our Affiliates.



Dr. Marylou Olivarez Mason  
Executive Director  
Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan



Michael Rodriguez  
Executive Director  
Enlace Chicago

### The NCLR Chicago-based Team

Maria Moser, Senior Director of Teaching and Learning  
Surabhi Jain, Director of Workforce Development  
Melissa Noe, Community Development Specialist  
Vanessa Uribe, Midwest Senior Regional Coordinator

For questions about this recap or to learn more about the NCLR Midwest Region, please contact [MW-info@nclr.org](mailto:MW-info@nclr.org).

#### PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES\*

NCLR Capital Awards	March 8, 2016
NCLR National Latino Advocacy Days	March 9–10, 2016
NCLR Affiliate Leadership Summit	March 9, 2016
NCLR Workforce Development Forum	May 4–6, 2016
NCLR Annual Conference	July 23–26, 2016
Election Day	November 4, 2016

\*Dates are subject to change.