



¹ **Latino Consortium**

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Dear friends,

The Latino Consortium has developed this resource directory with the purpose of offering useful information about existing bilingual human services resources in Cook County. This is the second resource directory prepared by this Consortium. The first directory was designed and published on behalf of our Consortium by Lifelink Special Service Program in the year 2000. This new edition builds on the work prepared by Lifelink as we hope that we were able to improve the first edition.

There are numbers of objectives we wanted to accomplish in redesigning this handbook. First, we wanted to ensure that the information on each agency reflected our desire to only present information on human service organizations that have bilingual services as part of their programming to the Spanish-speaking population in Cook County. Our interest is to be inclusive of all human service providers. Toward that end, we sent hundreds of letters, made hundreds of phone calls, fax uncountable survey forms, and sent a substantial number of electronic messages to social service organizations throughout Cook County. Getting organizations to respond to our correspondence was a difficult and a time-consuming adventure as organizations have the tendency not to give a high priority to this type of information request. Thus, we only included those who responded and retained those who we new existed.

Our second objective is to ensure our information was factual and practical for our readers and users. It is important for the readers to understand that even when we have done our best to verify the content of each resource, some of the data related to addresses, names of contact persons, phone numbers and/or availability of services and programs might change over time. We also want to underline the fact that we are dependant of the good faith of providers who took the time to respond to our survey as we hope the information given to us is reliable and truly represent the description of their programs.

Our third and last objective is to offer a comprehensive lists of service providers, both traditional and non-traditional, which are providing bilingual services to families and their children in Cook County. For your convenience we have divided the directory in eighteen areas of services, ranging from alternative education to most common used hotlines. We added several new sections such as hospices, bereavement, and the DCFS Service of Care providers list for Cook County.

Because of the high cost associated with printing this material, we decided to disseminate this directory via an electronic format. The document was protected to prevent unauthorized changes and/or tampering with the integrity of the information gathered by our staff. We have no objections for the distribution of this document among child welfare providers and practitioners. We encourage the free distribution of this resource handbook.

Finally, we are thankful for the work of Janet Barbosa, Yolanda Saucedo, and Madeline Vazquez who through their dedication and perseverance made this resource handbook possible. We hope the handbook will serve as a valuable tool for social service providers in Cook County.

Luis Barrios
Latino Consortium
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1. "Providing a holistic array of community-based, linguistically and culturally competent social services for our Latino children and families"