



AVISO NEWSLETTER

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The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus (ILLCF) and the Greater Cities Institute (GCI) published the 2025 Raices Report. During the summer of 2024 ILLC and the foundation held a retreat where the previous 5 pillars which were issue areas were transformed into core values which are 3 pillars. The report is based on the 2024 Raices Public Policy Conference where insights on Equity, Justice and community development were shared. These are the core values which guide ILLCF's work. Latinos have much power and influence in Illinois, with 2.3 million Latinos living in Illinois. There has been rapid growth in counties like Kane with 33% Latino, Lake with 24.4% and Will with 19.3%. In the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin Metro area Latinos have generated 4.1 billion in revenue in 2021. Furthermore, Latinos comprise 3.6 billion in payroll in the Chicago Metro area. Thus, the spending power of Latinos is significant being at 74 billion in personal consumption in 2018. [Click here](#) to view the full report.

FY24 SOS Hispanic Employment Plan

The Illinois Secretary of State FY24 Hispanic Employment Plan has been filed with the general assembly. According to the report of the 4,284 employees, 470 are Hispanic, which is approximately 11%. This is an increase from the previous year where only 385 employee's self-identified as Hispanic. With regard to Upper Management (Officials and Administrators) there are 95 in total, of which 5 are Hispanic. The majority of Hispanic Employees are in administrative support. In FY24, of the 350 positions which are designated for bilingual pay, 286 were Spanish speaking positions. During FY24 113 student workers/interns were hired of which 18 were Hispanic. [Click here](#) to see the full plan.

CMS Hispanic Employment Plan

The FY24 Hispanic Employment Plan report analyzes and compares annual data on current state employees. The analysis is sourced from the responses provided by state agencies, which is collected by means of an annual survey. This report demonstrates a positive trend with regard to Hispanic representation over a period of 5 years. According to the 2023 American Community Survey, Hispanics and Latinos comprise 19.9% of the population in Illinois, however only 7.7% of the public workforce is Hispanic or Latino, which is an increase from FY23 which was 7.4%. This growth is in part due to key initiatives with 12 state agencies and Hispanic Serving Institutions. These relationships facilitated the placement of 33 Hispanic interns throughout 49 agencies. Additional hiring initiatives include 14 agencies employing Latinx recruitment personnel. [Click here](#) to see the full plan.

CONOCE A TU IAHSE COMPAÑER@

We will be featuring IAHSE members in our monthly newsletter highlighting our diverse and talented Latino/a/e/x membership. This month's edition, we will be featuring our member . **If you wish to be highlighted or nominate another IAHSE member, please email us at IAHSE.Assoc@illinois.gov.**

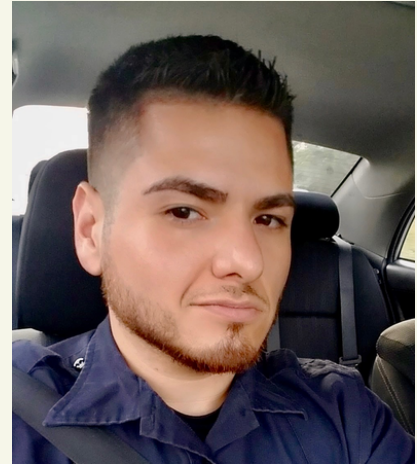
Name: Christian Gonzalez

Current State Agency & Title: Illinois Department of Corrections,
Corrections Residence Counselor I

What city are you based in? Chicago

How long have you worked for the State of Illinois? 15 years

What interested you in working for the State of Illinois & the current agency you are working for? I had just turned 20 years old. Originally, I thought I was applying to the Kane County. However, when I showed up to their office I was told to report down the street to Illinois Youth Center St. Charles since I was applying for a state job. I then thought I was applying to Juvenile Justice since my screening was there but then discovered I was applying to the adult facility Statesville Correctional Center. It was explained to me shortly after, I then Googled what I was getting myself into. That was almost 15 years ago, and the rest is history.



What are your hobbies? Some of my hobbies include fishing, and volunteering at my church.

Fun fact about you? I was on Illinois Department of Correction's hostage team for over 6 years.

Any achievements that you wish to share? Professional and/or personal? My personal achievements are my 3 children and 7 years of being happily married to my wife. My biggest professional achievement is bringing IAHSE to Sheridan Correctional Center with some other colleagues who make sure the involvement is actively supported there.

Anything else you wish to share with your IAHSE colleagues? Yes, absolutely, Christ is Lord!

If you wish to be highlighted or nominate another IAHSE member, please email us at IAHSE.Assoc@illinois.gov.



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