



# AVISO NEWSLETTER

Volume 25, Issue 05

MAY 2025

[WWW.IAHSE.ORG](http://WWW.IAHSE.ORG)

[IAHSE.ASSOC@illinois.gov](mailto:IAHSE.ASSOC@illinois.gov)

## Honoring Latino Veterans this Memorial Day

As we reflect on the meaning of Memorial Day, we pause to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. Among them are countless Latino veterans whose courage, sacrifice, and commitment shaped our nation's history and protected its freedom. Latino service members have served with distinction and pride in every battle and war in the history of this great nation. This Memorial Day, let us honor all who gave everything and especially recognize the legacy of Latino heroes who stood for liberty, justice, and a better future for all.

Con todo respeto y agradecimiento—thank you

## IAHSE Membership

A friendly reminder to all members regarding the status of their membership when transferring agencies. Members will have to resubmit a new membership form in order to maintain their active status within the association. Membership dues are only authorized within the agency that the member submits the form. Thus, all membership dues are paused when a member leaves that agency, even if it is to another agency within the state. Please resubmit your membership form to the new agency when transferring.

## Upcoming Events

**MALDEF GALA June 12, 2025**

**Raices Public Policy Conference September 18th, 2025**

**37<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference and Job Fair October 2025**

# IAHSE Celebrates 15 Years of Advocacy & Impact!

Let me start by saying GRACIAS to our incredible partners at the Illinois Latino Policy Forum who welcomed us as co-conveners for this year's Latino Unity Day! This year we celebrated a special milestone - the Quinceañera - 15 years of powerful advocacy, meaningful impact and educational advancement for our Latino community.

On the afternoon of Day 1 of the conference, we were proud to participate in an insightful and meaningful panel discussion: Latinx Representation in State Government. In short, we discussed the State's workforce of over 47,000 individuals, of which Latinx employees make up 7.7% (3,621).

Featured speakers and the organization they represented:

Isabella O. Hurtado, Director of the Governor's Office of New Americans

Carlos R Charneco, Chair of the Hispanic Employment Plan Advisory Council

Diane Casas, President of IAHSE

Moderator: Margarita Olmos, Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation

The conversation sparked momentum and led to a warm welcome of nine new members, adding to our growing IAHSE membership roster.

IAHSE welcomed our partners, members of the Springfield community, agency leaders, legislative caucus members for a night of networking and connection. Following

On day 2 the IAHSE Executive Board held a closed-door meeting with agency executives from DHS, CMS, IDES, DVA, DFPR, DHR and others. We discussed the issues YOU—our members and state employees—have raised: the urgency to hire more bilingual staff, the application barriers and the importance of closing the loop once a position is filled.. We will continue to communicate, promote inclusiveness and create awareness within our employment community.

A heartfelt shout out to ALL the NEW IAHSE members that joined during this last Latino Unity Day in Springfield!

With gratitude and solidarity

Diane Casas

President, IAHSE



IAHSE- ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF  
HISPANIC STATE EMPLOYEES



IAHSE



IAHSE -ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF  
HISPANIC STATE EMPLOYEES