

# OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS

### 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW



## CONTENTS



Mayor Emanuel speaks at a celebration of the Legal Protection Fund.

#### 2

CITY OF CHICAGO VS. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### 3

CITYKEY ID PROGRAM

#### 4

NEW AMERICANS ECONOMIC IMPACT

#### 5

REPRESENTING IMMIGRANTS NATIONALLY

### 6

LANGUAGE ACCESS

### 7

C O M M U N I T Y E N G A G E M E N T

### 8

LEGAL PROTECTION FUND

### 9

CHICAGO IS WITH YOU TASK FORCE

### 10

PROPOSED CHANGE IN PUBLIC CHARGE RULE

### 11

FIGHTING FOR IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

# CITY OF CHICAGO VS. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

In April, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Trump Administration's Dept. of Justice could not impose new conditions on a federal grant that provides critical crime prevention funds to the City.

These new conditions were imposed as a punishment to the City of Chicago because of its continued policy of welcoming all immigrants, regardless of documentation status.

### "WE WILL NOT BE BULLIED, INTIMIDATED OR COERCED."

Mayor Emanuel said of this legal victory: "Chicago is proud to lead the way in the legal fight against the Trump Justice Department. Immigrants and refugees from around the world have always looked to Chicago as a place where the American Dream is possible. We will not be bullied, intimidated or coerced into making a false choice between our values as a welcoming city and the principles of community policing."

### – Mayor Rahm Emanuel



Mayor Emanuel announces a legal win against the Trump Administration's Dept. of Justice.

# **CITYKEY ID PROGRAM**

In April, the CityKey ID program was launched. The CityKey is a three-in-one card that works as a government-issued ID, a Ventra card, and a library card. Your CityKey also allows you to get discounts at more than 30 businesses and cultural institutions across the city.



In July, the Mayor and City Clerk Anna Valencia announced that CityKey cards would also provide free discounts on name brand and prescription drugs. The card is accepted at all major chain pharmacies, with over 60,000 drugs included in the program and with savings of up to 80%.

The first 100,000 cards are provided free of charge, with free cards available into 2019.





# NEW AMERICANS ECONOMIC IMPACT

The New Americans in Chicago report showed that immigrants generated \$659 million in business income, earned \$17 billion in household income, and paid \$6 billion in taxes in 2016 alone.

Immigrants represented 36% of the entrepreneurs in Chicago and play a critical role in key industries such as manufacturing and general services.

A total of 19,378 DACA-eligible individuals live in Chicago, with an employment rate of 85.2%.

Despite making up **20.7%** of the overall population, immigrants represented **36.4%** of the entrepreneurs in Chicago in 2016.



Share of entrepreneurs who were foreign-born in 2016

In Chicago, immigrants were 67.4% more likely to be ..... entrepreneurs than their U.S.born counterparts.



**39,130** immigrant entrepreneurs generated

\$659.2M in business income for the city.

# REPRESENTING IMMIGRANTS NATIONALLY

At the national level, Chicago has consistently been a leader in defending immigrant rights and promoting inclusiveness around the country.

• In July, Mayor Emanuel sent a letter to the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigrant Services to demand a solution to the 730,000 citizenship backlog created under the Trump administration, denying lawful immigrants their rights as full citizens. The letter was cosigned by 45 mayors across the country.

• In August, Mayor Emanuel led a coalition of 18 states which submitted a formal comment regarding the upcoming Census urging the Census Bureau to reconsider its decision, in a reversal of longstanding Bureau practice, to include an unnecessary citizenship question that will impair the Bureau's essential function of counting all people in the 2020 Census.

• Chicago is a founding member of Cities for Action (C4A), a coalition of over 175 U.S. mayors advocating for pro-immigrant federal policies and launching innovative, inclusive programs locally. The City hosted Cities for Action's annual convening in March 2018.

• Chicago is a founding member of the SAFE Cities Network with the Vera Institute, a group of local jurisdictions that have committed public taxpayer dollars toward legal representation for immigrants in their communities facing deportation.

• Mayor Emanuel co-chairs Cities for Citizenship (C4C), a major national initiative aimed at increasing citizenship among eligible U.S. permanent residents. In September, C4C published a report highlighting the significant economic benefits that naturalization brings to individuals and communities.

• The Office of New Americans attended the 2018 National Immigrant Integration Conference with over 1000 other local government representatives to share strategies and innovations for immigrant integration efforts.

# LANGUAGE ACCESS

City Departments have published detailed reports about the frequency and types of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) interactions to assist the City's immigrant and LEP residents more efficiently.

Some highlights of the Language Access initiative include: Chicago Public Libraries hosted 1,088 non-English/Bilingual Programs attended by 12,470 LEP residents.

The Department of Business Affairs & Consumer Protection provided 32 translated documents for Chicago's LEP business community and consumers.

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities translated key documents that were accessed over 600 times.



Mayor Emanuel at a Legal Protection Fund Celebration hosted at Harold Washington College

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In October, the Mayor celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month event with members of Chicago's vibrant Hispanic American community.

In July, Mayor Emanuel held a community stakeholder meeting with with South Asian leaders.

In June, Mayor Emanuel spoke at a celebration for 1720 students who graduated with a CPS State Seal of Biliteracy, which is given to high school students who can communicate in two or more languages.

The Mayor hosted the City's Annual Iftar Dinner in May with over 300 guests from the City's diverse Muslim American community.

Mayor Emanuel participated in the Annual Chicago Muslim Turkey Drive at Dulles Elementary School in November.



Mayor Emanuel visited neighborhoods across the city to pay tribute and respect to immigrant communities through stakeholder events, including the following (clockwise from top left):

# LEGAL PROTECTION FUND

"Now more than ever, immigrants and their families are facing a system that is riddled with obstacles and arbitrary decision-making. Being represented by a legal service provider who knows the law often is what makes the difference between being deported without due process, or being able to remain in the Unites States and seek a just outcome that keeps families and communities together."

> – Mary Meg McCarthy National Immigrant Justice Center Executive Director

"Immigrants, regardless of whether they are refugees, dreamers, undocumented, legal permanent residents, or naturalized citizens have a profound appreciation for the opportunity given to them. They have a strong work ethic,

entrepreneurial spirit, and add value to the nation's economic and social fabric."

– Raul I. Raymundo The Resurrection Project CEO



Chicago's Legal Protection Fund has served immigrants from countries highlighted in red above.

In only its second year, Chicago's Legal Protection Fund has served a record 50,000 immigrants through community-based outreach, education, free legal consultations and courtroom representation.

Given its success, the Office of New Americans has re-appropriated funding so the program stays in place through 2019.

Chicagoans from more than 100 countries, including Syria, China, Sudan, Guatemala, Burma, and Serbia, received services through the Fund.



# CHICAGO IS WITH YOU TASK FORCE

Originally created by Mayor Rahm Emanuel in 2016, the Chicago is With You Task Force focuses on developing coordinated policies on mental health, legal services, employer communications, and education to ensure the City is delivering comprehensive services to immigrant, refugees and other disenfranchised communities.

The Task Force continued its mission in 2018 by meeting monthly to further its efforts

In December, the Chicago is With You Task Force received an award from the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). The award recognizes and commends the Task Force for its commitment to the Chicago immigrant community. "The Chicago is With You Task Force has been, and will continue to be, the light for those who live among the shadows."

– Chicago City Clerk & Cochairman of the Task Force, Anna Valencia



Top: The Chicago is With You Task Force holds a meeting about the City's most vulnerable individuals. Bottom: The Chicago is With You Task Force members receive an award from the AILA.

# PROPOSED CHANGE IN PUBLIC CHARGE RULE

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has a longstanding policy of determining whether an immigrant is likely to become a "public charge" based on the immigrant's dependence on federal cash programs. Immigrants deemed likely to become "public charges" are ineligible for adjustment of status or admission into the US.

In October, DHS issued a Proposed Rule significantly expanding the definition of "Public Charge" to include the potential use of non-cash benefit programs such as food stamps, medical care, and housing assistance.

The City of Chicago submitted a formal comment to the federal government in opposition to the proposed rule change, as it would discourage fully eligible immigrants from applying for benefits programs. "This is just the latest example of the Trump Administration's unlawful attempts to unfairly target and endanger the most vulnerable among us. We will continue to oppose this and any action that would make it more difficult for immigrants to adapt to their new lives and contribute to the social and cultural fabric of Chicago."

### – Mayor Rahm Emanuel



In November, the City invited community members to celebrate the Legal Protection Fund's success in serving over 50,000 immigrants and refugees in the Chicago area.





# FIGHTING FOR IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

In July, Judge Dolly M. Gee agreed with the amicus brief filed by Chicago and 3 other cities when denying the Trump Administration's request for relief from the 1997 Flores Agreement. This agreement ensures that detained undocumented minors are provided with a high standard of care in state-licensed facilities.

In November, the City of Chicago led a coalition of 20 cities in submitting a formal comment in *Flores v. Sessions*. The comment opposed the Trump Administration's proposed rules that would end statelicensing requirements and procedural protections guaranteed to immigrant children for over 20 years.

The City of Chicago opposed these rule changes because they would result in longer detentions and lower standards of care for immigrant children, thus increasing the risk of harm.

> We at the Office of New Americans continued to support the vital work of Heartland Alliance and other essential partners in their goals to shelter and reunify undocumented minors with their parents.

Top: Mayor Emanuel visits Solorio Academy High School on the Southwest side. Bottom: Mayor Emanuel shares dinner with a family of Syrian refugees.

# THANK YOU

American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) American Muslim Task Force on Civil Rights and Election Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Charities Centro Romero\* Centro de Trabajadores Unidos  $(CTU)^*$ Chicago Federation of Labor (CFL)City of Chicago Office of the City Clerk Chicago Public Library (CPL) Chicago Public Schools (CPS) City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR) Chicago Police Department (CPD)Cook County State's Attorney Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer Circle of Service Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago) DePaul University

Erie Neighborhood House\* Hana Center\* National Immigration Justice Center (NIJC) Illinois Business Immigration Coalition (IBIC) Illinois Health and Hospital Association Illinois Restaurant Association Illinois Comptroller Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) Indo-American Center (IAC)\* Instituto de Progreso Latino  $(IDPL)^*$ JB and MK Pritzker Family Foundation Lurie Children's Hospital Noble Network of Charter Schools One Chicago Fund Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP)\* Syrian Community Network (SCN) The Resurrection Project (TRP) United African Organization  $(UAO)^*$ United Way University Church Chicago