



INTERNATIONAL  
INSTITUTE  
SAINT LOUIS

# LATINO OUTREACH INITIATIVE

The Latino Outreach Initiative is a program of the International Institute of St. Louis that aims at making our city an attractive location for Latino immigrants to live. The program addresses the region's need to grow our population and strengthen our workforce, while ensuring that immigrants receive the opportunities and resources they need to thrive in our community. To achieve these goals, the International Institute is collaborating with philanthropists and trade unions.



## THE OPPORTUNITY

USCIS (United States Citizenship & Immigration Service) has established a new program admitting up to 30,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans per month.

The program has been an overwhelming success.

- Up to 30,000 Latino arrivals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela per month
- 160,000 arrivals as of the end of August 2023
- 1,500,000 requests as of the end of August 2023

The program is open to primarily humanitarian parolees (Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela), Latinos immigrants that have employment authorization and are willing to relocate to St. Louis.

We are embarking on a campaign to attract newly arrived Latino immigrants to St. Louis. We look forward to welcoming them into our community by delivering a holistic approach that ensures they have the opportunity to thrive in St. Louis long-term.

## HOUSING

- Provide 1-3 months of housing space based on the individual's need.
- The International Institute will be the lease guarantor.

## JOB TRAINING

- Partnering with trade unions, including those represented by the Missouri AFL-CIO and Missouri Works Initiative, to assist in training.
- Ensure that post-apprenticeship training programs are secured for parolees.
- Developing partnerships with corporations to train other arrivals within a three-month period to be integrated into the workforce within those corporations. This may include, but is not limited to, production line workers, factory workers, fiber optics installations, electrical workers, hospitality services etc.

## EMPLOYMENT

- The program will also include workers who may already have skills and that can be placed directly into workforce with local corporations. This may become a source of revenue to sustain the program.

## TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE

- Provide arrivals with six months of free phone plan, including unlimited data and internet services. After six months, participants will take over payment of the service.
- Provide basic computer lessons in Spanish to assist those in need.

## LANGUAGE SERVICES

- Engage language instructors to provide English language support to new arrivals.
- Invest in the translation of courses, lessons, legal documents, communications etc. (English to Spanish and Spanish to English, as needed.)

## IMMIGRATION

- Expand the services of the Immigration Department to support the applications for work authorizations, exploring other legal pathways to permanent residency, other forms of work visas etc.

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Email Karlos Ramirez, Vice President of Latino Outreach  
[ramirez@iistl.org](mailto:ramirez@iistl.org)