



The Mexican Community in Staten Island

March 2005

A Report of Findings and Recommendations



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Executive Summary

For four hundred years, waves of immigrants have entered New York Harbor seeking new opportunities to find gainful employment and to raise families. The rapid growth of the Mexican Immigrant community in New York follows in this tradition. Nowhere is the impact of this growing population felt more strongly than on Staten Island, where the Mexican immigration population – documented and undocumented – has grown more than 400% in the past ten years. The new Mexican community has influenced the economic and social fabric of Staten Island, particularly on the North Island. The social, economic, and institutional needs of Mexican immigrants who have entered the United States are numerous and complex, however there is clearly strength within the community to meet these needs. This is evidenced both by nonprofit organizations that have responded to the needs of Mexican immigrants, and by the community's ability to provide support to its own members.

This report examines the Mexican community in Staten Island. It provides demographic and socioeconomic information, describes the needs of the community, identifies the programs that serve Mexican immigrants, and makes recommendations to address the needs of this community.

The report was prepared by Adriana Rocha, Senior Program Associate and Arnaldo Simó, Program Associate of Community Resource Exchange at the request of the Staten Island Bank and Trust Foundation (SIBTF). The co-authors would like to acknowledge (in alphabetical order) Ana Maria Archilla of Latin American Integration Center, Sister Kathy Byrnes of Saint Vincent's Hospital, Reverend D. Michael Flynn of St. Mary's Assumption Parish, Carmen Garvagna of Latino Civic Association, Pat Karnatski of Port Richmond Family Health Center, Anthony Navarino of Staten Island Catholic Youth Organization, Martin Olson of Northfield Community Local Development Corporation, Reverend Terry Troia of Project Hospitality, and the Executive Board of El Centro de Hospitalidad, for participating in the research component of this report.

Executive Summary

The Mexican Community in Staten Island

Highlights from the Findings

- Mexicans are the second largest immigrant group receiving low wages defined as earning between \$5.15 and \$7.10 an hour in New York City (NYC). Mexicans account for 13.7% of all low wage workers in NYC, a much higher ratio than their share of NYC's foreign born population (4.3%).
- In NYC, Mexicans moved from 17th to 5th in size of immigrant population as of 2000, quadrupling in numbers since the 1990 Census.
- Mexicans in NYC have the lowest level of education among major immigrant groups. Slightly more than a third have a high school degree.
- Individual Mexican workers have the City's lowest median earnings: \$16,737 for women and \$21,284 for men.
- By having multiple workers in often overcrowded households, Mexican immigrants manage to bring their total household income to \$32,000, 85% of the city median of \$37,700.
- Numerous Mexican immigrants are skilled artisans and carpenters who have a drive to work and seek opportunities for advancement. They contribute positively to the economy of New York City and Staten Island.
- The Mexican community has contributed to the diversity of Staten Island, particularly on the North Shore.

Staten Island is undergoing tremendously significant changes due to shifts in its population patterns. According to the NYC Human Rights Commission, Staten Island is the most rapidly diversifying of all boroughs. One group contributing significantly to Staten Island's growing diversity is the Mexican population which has increased on Staten Island by 428.3 % over the last decade. As the Mexican community in Staten Island continues to grow, the Staten Island Bank and Trust Foundation is interested in identifying and understanding the unique needs of this community. SIBTF is aware of several large non-profits in Staten Island that have created programs for the Mexican community, but to date, SIBTF has yet to receive a competitive proposal from a Mexican run and led organization.

The long term goals of this project are:

- 1) to learn the most significant needs of the Mexican community in Staten Island;
- 2) identify what specific role SIBTF can play to support the community needs; and
- 3) identify what support SIBTF can offer to support the indigenous leadership of the community.

This report summarizes the findings in these three areas of inquiry and suggests roles that SIBTF might play to address the needs of Staten Island's Mexican community.

Sources of Data and Methodological Issues

The Mexican Community in Staten Island

In carrying out this project, CRE drew upon various informational sources. On the data front, this report derives its information from the US Census 2000, Community Profiles, The State of New York City Housing Report, and The Newest New Yorkers 2000¹. Additionally, CRE held individual interviews with nonprofit leaders of eight organizations working with Mexican immigrants on Staten Island and conducted a focus group with Mexican immigrants. Some notable findings: There is a lack of data on the Mexican community specific to Staten Island. The absence of comprehensive data makes it difficult to determine the full extent of the community size and needs. In addition, the data that does exist often has conflicting and inconsistent information. For example, several sources refer to and describe documented Mexican immigrants but do not report on undocumented Mexicans or those immigrants with work permits. This is true, for example, of “The State of New York City Housing Report” and the United States 2000 Census. “The State of New York City Housing Report” claims that the majority of Mexicans live in the Mid-Island section of Staten Island, but all other evidence rebuffs that assertion. The NYC Housing Report also declares that there are several hundred Mexicans on Staten Island while the 2000 Census accounts for several thousand.

The documents and data reviewed by CRE likely reflect a substantial undercount of the total number of Mexicans living in New York (186,870) and in Staten Island. City-wide, more inclusive estimates place this population in the range of 275,000 to 300,000. For statistical data reported here, CRE relied heavily on “The Newest New Yorkers 2000: Immigrant New York in the New Millennium,” which offers a comprehensive look at the foreign-born residents who have transformed the city's neighborhoods, schools and businesses. Unlike earlier city reports that dealt only with documented immigrants recorded by federal authorities, this analysis tries to capture documented, undocumented and temporary residents alike, combining census information, city housing surveys and vital statistics to offer a fine-grained topography of a global resettlement unmatched by any other United States metropolis.

To compensate for the lack of data and significant shortcomings in the existing data on Mexican immigrants in Staten Island, CRE cross-referenced numerous documents to present what we believe is a credible representation of the community.

An overall statistical picture of the community is as follows: Large-scale immigration from Latin America, especially Mexico, developed in the 1970s, gathered momentum in the 1980s and surged after the mid-1990s.² As a result, immigration drove most of the Mexican population growth in New York City over this period. A substantial share of the growth, particularly in the past decade, has come through undocumented immigration. Many Mexican immigrants come from rural areas in Mexico such as Puebla located near Mexico City. Estimates are that between 60 and 80 percent of all Mexican immigrants in NYC originated from Puebla or in other states in the rural vicinity of Mexico City, including Guerrero, Jalisco, and Michoacan.³

In New York City, Mexicans moved from 17th to 5th in immigrant totals, with a quadrupling in numbers between the 1990 to the 2000 Census.⁴ At 186,870, the Mexican community is ranked fifth in the foreign born population and has been identified as the city's second fastest growing ethnic group (274.9%). City demographers said the true growth was still higher and that the Mexican community may stand now at 200,000.

By all reports, demographers anticipate that the growth in the immigrant Mexican community will continue to be robust. Immigration will explain some of the continued growth, but births to current residents will also be a contributing factor. Births to the city's Mexican-born mothers in NYC were 6,408 in 2000, second only to births to foreign-born Dominicans.

In Staten Island, the total immigrant population in 2000 represented a 63 percent increase over 1990, the highest of any borough. Queens, Bronx, and Brooklyn saw increases in the vicinity of the city average of 38 percent, while Manhattan's foreign-born grew by 18 percent. Like much of New York City, Staten Island has changed. Historically known to be the "whitest" city borough, 8,000 Mexicans currently reside in the community of New Brighton-Grymes Hill. The Mexican community comprises 1.8% of Staten Island's total population of 443,728 residents.

Statistical Findings

The Mexican Community in Staten Island

The *Staten Island Advance* reports somewhat expanded numbers, suggesting that 10,000 Mexican immigrants live in Staten Island with a significant proportion of that population concentrated on the North Shore.⁵ All the data confirm that most of the Mexican immigrants came to Staten Island very recently, averaging less than 10 years of residential settlement. This data suggests a growing Mexican community and, with continuing hardships in their native country, new influxes of immigrants are expected to continue. As the community grows, so will its needs and its impact throughout Staten Island.

Community Growth

According to the 2000 Census:

- Mexican population in Staten Island is 7,798, a 428.3% increase in population since 1990
- Mexicans were the second largest foreign born group, 7 percent in Staten Island

- Staten Island Sub-borough Areas with Hispanic Populations: highest, North Shore 32,192 (19.8%), Mid-Island 12,406 (9.7%), South Shore 8,952 (5.9%)⁶

Two main reasons spurred the Mexican migration to Staten Island: access to employment and affordable housing. Staten Island serves as a bridge for cross state labor in New Jersey, and New York, specifically Brooklyn and Long Island. Instead of living in Brooklyn and traveling to Staten Island for employment, many immigrants moved to Staten Island to access contractors who travel to Staten Island seeking out landscape, construction, and factory workers. An equally important reason is the stock of affordable housing in Staten Island. Even as the rental prices are increasing, the rental market is cheaper than that of traditional Mexican communities in NYC such as Corona and Sunset Park.

Some demographic characteristics of the Mexican community in Staten Island:

Sex/Age

This Mexican community in NYC is young and predominantly male:

- The median age of the Mexican population in New York City is 24.3 years, compared to 34.4 years for the city overall.
- The Mexican sex ratio for the city was 154, meaning that there were 154 males for every 100 females. Mexican males first establish themselves here in the city before being joined by their spouses and children. As the Mexican community becomes a more established immigrant community it is projected that the sex ratio will grow smaller.

Education level

The Mexican community in NYC generally has low levels of education:

- Slightly more than a third graduated from high school here or in Mexico.

- The State of New York titlan: A Socioeconomic Profile of Mexican New Yorkers prepared by Francisco Rivera-Batiz claims Mexicans also have very low levels of schooling by U.S. standards. It states that close to 60 percent of the population age 25 years or older in 2000 had not completed high school. By comparison, less than 30 percent of the overall New York City population in 2000 had less than a high school education.

Income

The Mexican community in NYC is very low-income:

- The population of those identified as “poor” in the Census in Staten Island has grown between 1990 to 2000; the growth rate is now second highest in the city, just behind Queens which at fifty percent is outpacing the other boroughs. The reports we reviewed indicated that the growth of the Mexican community on Staten Island was a critical factor in the growth of the overall number of poor in that borough.

Statistical Findings

The Mexican Community in Staten Island

- Analyzing data from New York City's Department of Planning, the income of the Mexican population was the lowest of all the native and foreign born groups in New York City. Fully 32% of Mexicans were living below the poverty line, more than double the city's overall average. Mexicans have the dubious distinction of being second among the largest immigrant groups to have received the lowest wages per individual workers in NYC. They account for 13.7% of low wage workers; a much higher ratio than their share of NYC's foreign born population (4.3%).⁷
- Individual Mexican workers had the city's lowest median earnings of all immigrants: \$16,737 for women and \$21,284 for men.
- By having multiple workers in frequently overcrowded households, Mexicans managed to bring their total household incomes to \$32,000 (85%) of the city median of \$37,700.⁸

Notwithstanding their low earnings, Mexicans remit income to their native country with great frequency. The remittances often benefit their families in Mexico.

Employment

Mexican immigrants in NYC come here to work:

- Mexican workers average 1.8 per household, the highest amongst foreign born groups.

With low levels of education and English proficiency, the majority of Mexican immigrants worked in the following areas in NYC: Manufacturing, Construction, and Service industries. Data from interviews indicate that many undocumented men work as day laborers in construction and women as housekeepers.

Several factors distinguish Staten Island from other boroughs and make the concerns of its Mexican community distinctive. Compared to other boroughs, Staten Island lacks the infrastructure support often provided by well-established community organizations and public offices in other boroughs, resulting in a public services system on Staten Island that is diminished and more fragmented. On the whole, Staten Island lags in the availability of government and social services to “ease the struggles of the needy.” The Island only has one city office to accept and process application for food stamps and welfare, inadequate to serve 56,000 people on Staten Island who are poor enough to qualify for government benefits. A study conducted by the Food Bank of New York found that, “Staten Island’s soup kitchens and food pantries were among the least well-financed and kept comparatively short hours” of operation. The Island has no publicly funded shelter beds for homeless men; limited free legal assistance for immigration, housing, workplace issues, and no public hospital.

Further complicating the situation for Mexican immigrants, Staten Island lacks bilingual staff at social services agencies, government offices and hospitals. According to those we interviewed, this reality has forced many Mexican immigrants to access care and services in other boroughs. As a result, Mexican immigrants receive less than adequate information and care than is typically available to other New Yorkers. These unique factors present additional concerns for Staten Island community leaders and community organizations who aim to address the needs and interests of Mexican immigrants.

Interviews and focus groups gave life to demographic data and helped CRE to better understand the community’s needs from the perspective of those closest to it. CRE gave considerable attention to the input of the focus group because it was composed of Mexican leaders. CRE organized the needs by the majority of responses: Health Care, Housing, Issues of Safety, Legal Services, Financial Literacy, Educational Services, Navigating Systems, Employment Services, and Childcare.

Summary Needs

The Mexican Community in Staten Island

Health Care

Health care was cited as the most pressing issue for Mexican immigrants on Staten Island. Factors contributing to this conclusion are reports of:

- Use of emergency room as primary care
- Mexicans accessing health care through medical emergency services has led to accumulating debt
- Lack of bilingual staff at hospitals
- No public hospital; evidence of immigrants traveling to Manhattan for hospital care
- The closing of St. Vincent's public clinic
- Public medical services that are limited to pregnant women and children
- The dearth of adult health care providers, (a major complaint voiced in the Mexican Focus Group) and lack of access to primary care physicians
- Employment conditions that place immigrants at high risk for work related

injuries; lack of legal or public agency staff to fill out workers compensation forms

- Lack of education and preventive care (this "gap" ranked fourth for the focus group)
- Health problems of the immigrants themselves: Alcoholism, STD's, Depression, Diabetes, Cancer, and Asthma

Housing

Housing was cited as a high priority item for Mexican immigrants. Factors contributing to this conclusion are reports of:

- High occupancy/severe overcrowding
 - 5-6 people per 1 bedroom
 - 20 people per 2 bedroom apartment
 - Average of 15-20 people in a single apartment
- Substandard housing conditions
 - Poor Plumbing and construction, illegal dwellings

- High rents
 - Some landlords threaten Mexicans with INS reporting
- Homelessness
 - Some Mexican sleeping in cars for shelter

Traditional Mexican neighborhoods in New York City include Sunset Park (Brooklyn), Corona (Queens), and Bushwick (Brooklyn). The two main reasons why Mexicans have settled in Staten Island are a perception of greater access to employment opportunities and affordable housing in Staten Island.

Issues of Safety

Safety is identified as a need among the Mexican immigrants. Factors contributing to this conclusion are reports of:

- Tension between African American and Mexican communities exists as evidenced by violence between and among young people that is both verbal and physical
- Reports of regular assault and robbery of male workers after work

- Some bias crimes
 - Insufficient Police coverage
 - History of perceiving police as “crooked and abusive”
- High turnover in police precinct leadership
- Brief mention of gang membership for protection and socializing

The Mexican community has faced a series of beatings and robberies that have resulted in serious injuries. Several schools, congregations, and neighborhood groups have come together to address the problem.

Legal Services

The Mexican immigrant community could benefit from greater access to legal services. Factors contributing to this conclusion are reports of:

- Lack of current access to legal services and representation
 - Legal issues as they relate to housing and labor
 - Illegal withholding of tenant’s rent deposits

Summary Needs

The Mexican Community in Staten Island

- Unpaid labor by disreputable employers, particularly an issue for the undocumented
- Lack of understanding of immigration status; regulations, new laws governing temporary workers, etc. which reinforces their isolation and complicates access to services, employment, housing, etc.
- Reported difficulties among some immigrants in obtaining worker's permits and driver licenses; lack of understanding of worker's rights

Financial Literacy

The community has low levels of financial literacy and has unique challenges in connecting to financial institutions. Factors contributing to this conclusion are reports of:

- Limited connection to financial institutions; few savings accounts, etc.
- Low support of entrepreneurs/small businesses in the community

- Reports of high interest in purchasing a home, but lack of familiarity about how; challenges undocumented immigrants have to secure loans from financial institutions (this was a high priority in the focus group)
- Reports of challenges in saving money, budgeting
- Challenges to establishing Bank Accounts because of the lack of documentation

Education Services

The community has significant needs in the education arena. Factors contributing to this conclusion are reports of:

- Limited study and homework help
- Over crowded schools

- The lack of bilingual staff in public schools; large drop out rate among youth; need for programs for youth as cited as a high priority in the focus group
- Lack of adult education programs (this was third issue for the focus group)
- High rates of illiteracy in Spanish

Mexican youth struggle in schools and lag behind their peers because they do not have adequate support. The Focus Group asserted that there are not enough after school programs to aid the youth in homework help and tutoring.

Understanding Life/Survival Skills Navigating Systems

New immigrants have difficulties navigating various systems within schools, government agencies, and other social providers because of language barriers and access issues. Many people in the immigrant community are not knowledgeable of traffic laws, basic rights, how to deal with and seek relief in emergencies like the 2003 blackout and September 11th.

Employment Services

While Mexican immigrants have had some level of success in finding work and combining wages to achieve a living wage, the hardships of securing skilled positions are significant. Factors contributing to this conclusion are reports of:

- Lack of knowledge among Mexican immigrants about skills training and programs for masons, plumbers, carpenters, artisans.
- Low levels of English proficiency among some sectors of the Mexican immigrant population.
- Current unsafe work environments and low wages in low-skilled positions that are now available to Mexican immigrants.

Despite the success of Mexican immigrants in finding employment, they are less educated and less experienced than other workers. As a result, Mexicans hold relatively low-skilled occupations, have inconsistent positions and earn less than the average for all workers.

Summary Needs

The Mexican Community in Staten Island

While the employment issue ranked low in comparison to other findings, this was the second issue of concern for the focus group. They expressed an interest in building their skills in specific areas and a desire to earn certifications or licenses.

Childcare

As is true of other low-income New Yorkers, the challenge of finding quality, affordable child care among Mexican immigrants is great and complicated further by their isolation and language and cultural barriers. Factors contributing to this conclusion are reports of:

- Low current enrollment of Mexican immigrants in existing programs
- The dearth of low cost care for pre-school children and infants
- Few formalized networks of care among the immigrant community due to their isolation and issues of language and culture

The issue of childcare was identified and ranked as the #1 issue for the Mexican focus group, but was not mentioned in the interviews.

Many Mexican parents have limited or no access to childcare for their children while they are working, often very late into the day.

The social, economic, and institutional needs of Mexican immigrants who have entered the United States are numerous and complex. Even in their native language many have literacy and educational shortcomings. There are significant cultural and social differences between where they came from and their new home. Many confronted personal tragedy as a result of losing friends and family members crossing the “borders”. Others have faced dislocation that can have enormous psychological repercussions as well as implications for the whole community in terms of cultural identity. These issues pose significant barriers that limit the ability of individuals from reaching their highest potential but also create barriers for the whole community. Mexican immigrants need to be able to meet the world with confidence in order to thrive while still maintaining a sense of their own identity. For Mexicans who have experienced this ordeal, that process is complicated, requiring significant work, support and encouragement.

The Mexican immigrant community is confronted by many challenges. However, there is clearly strength within the community as evidenced by its ability to organize by providing support to its members. Support comes in many forms from sharing space, resources, and tips on employment to personal assistance in navigating service systems. Many individuals are willing to participate in community development and organizing initiatives even after working a twelve hour day.

We learned from our interviewees that numerous Mexican immigrants are skilled artisans and carpenters who have a drive to work and seek opportunities for advancement. Thus they actively contribute positively to the economy of New York City and Staten Island. The Mexican community has contributed to the diversity of Staten Island, particularly on the North Shore. They have openly shared their culture through art, events, traditional cuisine, and other community forums. In a New York Times article written by reporter Leslie Kaufman, she asserts that, "During the 1990's, Mexican Indians transformed Port Richmond Avenue, a shopping thoroughfare on the north side of the island, turning blighted storefronts into fruit stands, restaurants and dress shops."⁹

There is an enormous need for additional services and advocacy in order for this community of recent immigrants to prosper. These services must take into account the special circumstances and needs of Mexican immigrants in order to be effective and must build on the strengths of the community to be sustainable. It is our belief that beyond the need for direct social services, there is a need in the Mexican community for self determination by building on their own resources and advocating for their needs.

While not all led by Mexican immigrants, there is an emerging network of social service organizations that are currently working in the Mexican community on Staten Island. These groups may provide an entry point or at least may serve as good partners in the further development of systems of support for the Mexican community on Staten Island. These include: El Centro de Hospitalidad, Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church, the Latin American Integration Center, and Saint Vincent Hospital in Staten Island.

El Centro de Hospitalidad is a day laborers organization that is led by Mexicans focused on the needs of the increasing undocumented Latino immigrant population in Staten Island. El Centro de Hospitalidad is a cornerstone in the community. They have created “a space where recently arrived immigrants can form friendships, receive information and training and make their own contribution to the Staten Island community.” El Centro provides a gathering place for day laborers, worker’s rights training, legal assistance, immigration counseling, health screenings, testing and education, job, social and medical referrals, food and clothing distribution, and social activities. El Centro is administratively operated by Project Hospitality. Project Hospitality is currently in discussions with New York University Hospital to open a clinic for undocumented immigrants.

El Centro sponsors two worker associations: the Asociación de los Trabajadores del Centro and Las Señoras de Santa Maria. The Asociación de los Trabajadores del Centro are day laborers who have organized themselves according to laborer skill and set up a service of referring workers to contractors at negotiated pay scales. Las Señoras de Santa Maria is a similar cooperative for women in cleaning and

housekeeping services. Responding to the tensions between local shopkeepers, business people and police, El Centro is working with community leaders to identify and establish a day laborer site for work pickup.

Established in 1992, the **Latin American Integration Center (LAIC)** has worked with low income Latin American communities with offices located in Queens and Staten Island. LAIC works with undocumented immigrants in Staten Island Community District 1. Their programs are divided into Social Services and the Advocacy and Community Empowerment Initiatives. Social Services at LAIC aim to strengthen the individual’s capacity through community education, individual assistance and family support and immigration assistance. Individual assistance is provided to immigrants who need help accessing appropriate and quality health care and family support is provided through counseling and referrals for families in crisis, a family budgeting class and after-school homework assistance for elementary school children.

The Advocacy & Community Empowerment Initiatives of LAIC seek to build community and increase political representation through Citizens in Action & Electoral Participation, Advocacy & Community Engagement, Immigrant Workers Education, Leadership Development and Organizing, and Youth Development and Organizing. The activities focus on three key issues including immigrant health access, education equity for immigrant families, and immigrant voting and civil rights. In recent years, LAIC has mobilized hundreds of community members for advocacy campaigns at the city, state, and federal level.

Saint Vincent's Hospital of Staten Island is a medical center that offers inpatient and outpatient services. Their specialists direct the reproductive medicine center and operate a high-risk pregnancy center for women requiring special care which has been designated a Regional Prenatal Center by the New York State Department of Health. Their neonatal intensive care center claims to have one of the highest survival rates in the city. They are accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Some of the services St. Vincent's provides are ambulatory surgery, cancer care, Center for Reproductive Medicine, Comprehensive Cardiovascular Center and Comprehensive HIV Center: Testing, counseling, support groups, early intervention services and access to innovative HIV-fighting drugs, all available in a compassionate setting.

Finally, some Mexican immigrants are connected to the faith community as a place to gather and organize. **Saint Mary of Assumption Roman Catholic Church** was the first congregation that provided religious services in Spanish. Presently, they are collaborating with other organizations to serve the Mexican community via youth programs, educational workshops, and a soup kitchen.

Recommendations

The Mexican Community in Staten Island

Given the needs and assets identified in the community, CRE presents the following recommendations for consideration by the Staten Island Bank & Trust Foundation:

1) Grow the local nonprofit private sector infrastructure on Staten Island so that it is positioned to expand services to the Mexican community. There is an emerging network of nonprofit groups who really understand the community and who have created an opportunity for Mexican immigrants to help themselves lead and serve including as El Centro de Hospitalidad, Saint Mary of Assumption Roman Catholic Church, the Latin American Integration Center and Saint Vincent's Medical Center. These organizations could be provided with the right resources (general support and capacity-building) and the right incentives (a targeted RFP) to further develop needed programming for the community including:

- Legal assistance programs targeting the Mexican immigrant community that will focus in particular on issues such as housing, access to public benefits, workers' rights and compensation challenges.

- After-school and youth programs for children/youth ages 13-16.
 - Adult literacy programming, skills-based certification and licensing initiatives and employment readiness programs.
- 2) Fund collaborations between local indigenous groups and more established Staten Island organizations to extend services to the Mexican community. Encourage and support programs that integrate a set of activities designed to address the critical needs of Mexican immigrants to enable them to engage positively and productively in their new communities while retaining their unique cultural identity and strengths. Established organizations could be encouraged to engage in activities that develop existing leaders and mentor new leaders via a leadership training program. This type of "mentoring" could happen at the organizational level as well, with organizations adopting "sister organizations" and assist with the range of capacity-building needs the emerging groups may have, e.g., Board training and development, guidance about fundraising or financial management.

- 3) Partner with local politicians and police on anti-bias and anti-violence initiatives.
- 4) Invite schools serving Mexican immigrant families to initiate afterschool programming and academic enrichment services. Encourage the creation of a Parent Coordinator-type position in schools who would provide Mexican parents with an orientation on the Department of Education and the school system, teach them how to navigate school bureaucracy and advocate for Mexican children and parents.
- 5) Partner with city agencies and intermediaries such as the Partnership for After School Education, The After School Corporation, the Department of Youth Community Development, and/or the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to develop Beacon school programming in the Mexican community that can offer adult education programs with ESL classes, etc.
- 6) Partner with other foundations, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Health and Hospital Corporation to open an adult health clinic

with prevention education programming targeting the Mexican immigrant community.

- 7) Fund legal assistance programs targeting the Mexican immigrant community that focus on issues about housing, access to public benefits, workers' rights and compensation challenges.
- 8) Invest in micro-enterprises and the development of small businesses such as artisan shops, restaurants and other Mexican owned businesses. Partner with community based organizations and local trade schools to support skills-based certification, licensing initiatives, and employment readiness programs.
- 9) Partner with other funders such as the Fund for New Citizens, New York Foundation, Robin Hood Foundation, and Robert Bowne Foundation to support this range of initiatives.

CRE would be a willing partner with Staten Island Bank and Trust Foundation in supporting your own thinking or in convening other groups in the community and/or with your fellow grantmakers to prioritize, refine, or bring any of these ideas to the next level.

Appendix

The Mexican
Community
in
Staten Island

- 1) Interview Guide
- 2) Census Tract Map of Mexican Immigrants
- 3) The Newest New Yorkers chart
- 4) Endnotes

Staten Island Bank and Trust Mexican Community Project Interview Guide

Introduction

CRE, purpose of project, what we will do with the data, next steps, questions they have.

Opening Questions

How long has your organization been working in the Staten Island?
How long has your organization been working with immigrant communities in Staten Island?
How long has your organization been working with the Mexican community in Staten Island?

Transition Questions

What have you seen as the shifts in immigration in Staten Island, how would you describe this shift?
What have you observed as a shift in the non-profits to respond to this shift?

Key Questions

What would you say are the characteristics of the Mexican community in Staten Island?

Age	Income
Length of time in Staten Island	Housing
Education level	Employment
English proficiency	

What would you identify as the needs of the Mexican community?
Of the needs you listed, which would you say are the three most pressing needs?
What would you identify as gaps in services to the Mexican community?
Of the gaps you identified, which would you say are the three most pressing gaps?
What program/services does your organization provide to the Mexican community?
How did your organization get involved in this project? How did this project come about?
What resources (i.e. staff, funding, space) have you drawn on to support the Mexican community?
What other services, programs are you familiar with for the Mexican community in Staten Island?
What support would be useful to the Mexican community?

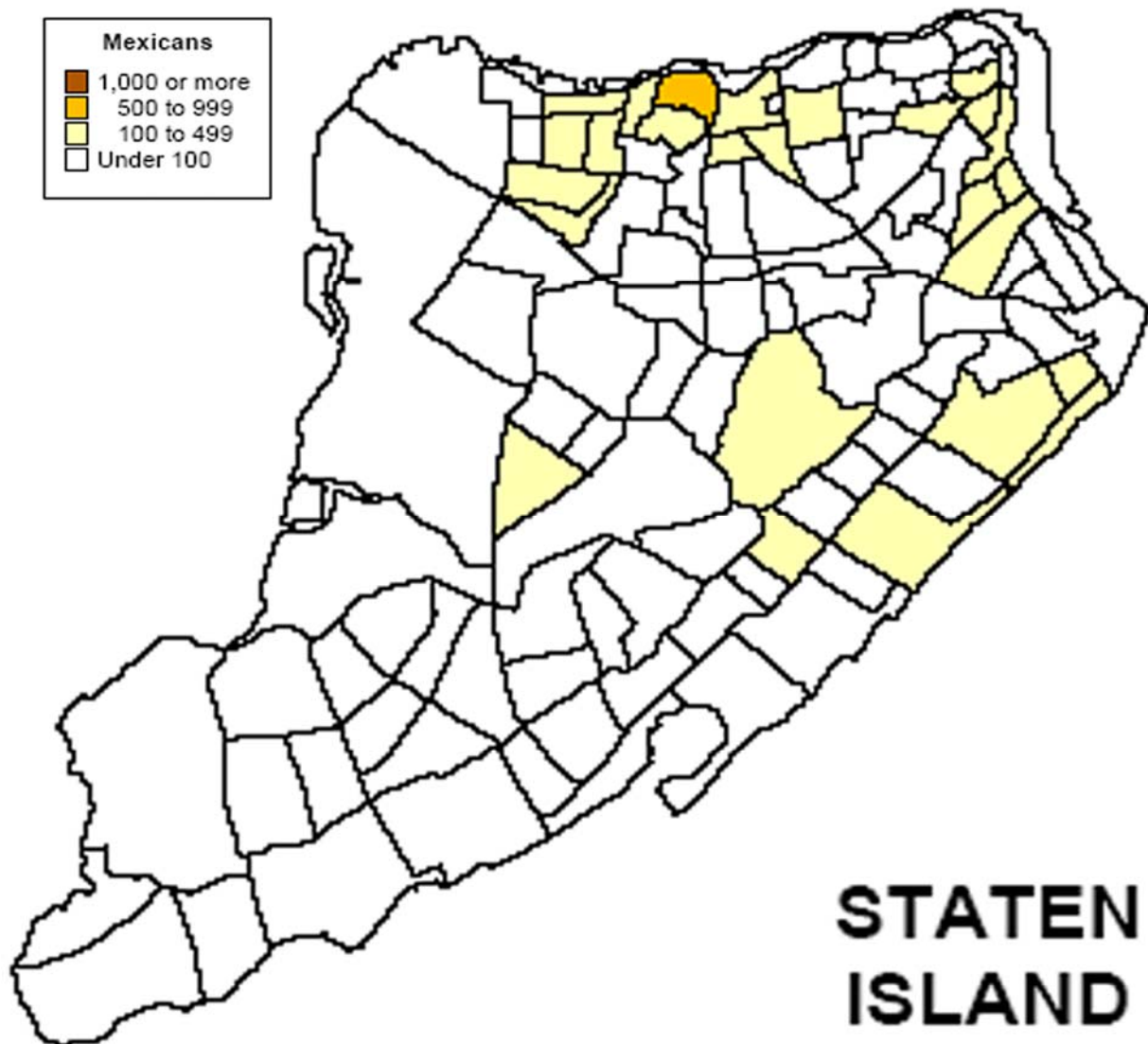
Closing Questions

Do you have any suggestions for other organizations or individuals (i.e. Mexican community leaders) we should speak with to inform our research?
Would your organization be willing to help us coordinate a focus group of your clients?
Would your organization be interested in participating in a larger group process to discuss these topics?
Is there anything we missed, any other comments you have?

Appendix 2: Census Tract Map of Mexican Immigrants

The Mexican Community in Staten Island

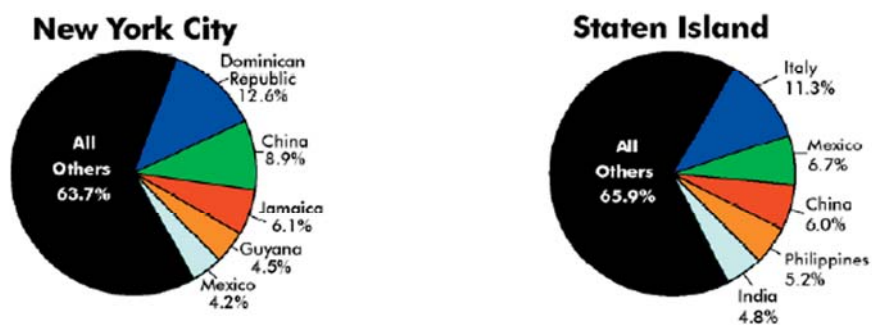
Map SF1-3: Number of Mexicans By Census Tract Staten Island, 2000



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 SF1 File

Appendix 3: The Newest New Yorkers Chart

Top Five Countries of Birth New York City and Staten Island, 2000



Source: The Newest New Yorkers 2000
New York City Department of City Planning Population Division

Appendix 4: Endnotes

- 1) The Newest New Yorkers 2005 has been reissued by the NYC Department of Planning in March 2005.
- 2) Hispanics: A People in Motion 2005 by the Pew Hispanic Center.
- 3) The State of New York City: A Socioeconomic Profile Mexican New Yorkers by Francisco Rivera-Batiz.
- 4) The Newest New Yorkers 2000" NYC Department of City Planning, Dec 2004.
- 5) Emma Vidals: Leading the way for Latinos, Melissa Anelli, Staten Island Advance October 17, 2004.
- 6) State of New York City Housing Report.
- 7) "Immigrant workers and the minimum wage in New York City" by the Fiscal Policy Institute, 2004.
- 8) Record Immigration is changing the face of New York City's Neighborhoods by Nina Bernstein, NY Times Jan 2005.
- 9) "On Staten Island, Without a Lifeboat" by Leslie Kaufman, New York Times December 26, 2004.



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