The second section of this report provides a portrait of Puerto Ricans in eight critical areas: Housing, Economic Development, Education, Health, Youth and Justice, Non-Profit Capacity, Women, and Culture.

Although this project is primarily about Puerto Ricans who are dispersed throughout the City of Chicago, Humboldt Park, its surrounding areas, and the northwest side of Chicago have become an important focal point for this research for a number of reasons:

1. It is home to about 50% of Puerto Ricans in the City of Chicago;
2. Most Puerto Rican institutions and organizations are located there;
3. The area stands as a symbol of Puerto Rican identity and history;
4. Methodologically speaking, there are considerable amounts of data that are not collected on Puerto Ricans specifically, and therefore the geography that delimits concentrations of Puerto Ricans may serve as a proxy for looking at Puerto Ricans in general.

In addition, public policy has emphasized the dispersal of minorities as a response to poverty alleviation. However, a growing number of scholars have also argued that concentrated populations—functioning, for instance, as ethnic enclaves—can better exert their power to make their communities better (Varady, 2005). The Puerto Rican Agenda is interested in addressing policy issues regarding Puerto Ricans in Chicago first where Puerto Ricans are concentrated and then, and only then, where they have dispersed. The Puerto Rican Agenda has already had an impact well beyond the Puerto Rican community in many of the policy issues that will be discussed in this section, and they have helped to leverage resources for the community as a whole—not only for Puerto Ricans. The purpose of this project is to fortify and maintain a community-development approach, which is based on addressing issues in place.
The highest concentrations of Puerto Ricans are on the northwest Side of Chicago, specifically in the neighborhoods of Logan Square, Hermosa, Humboldt Park, Belmont, Cragin, West Town, Avondale, Portage Park, Montclare and, to a smaller degree, portions of Austin and Irving Park. This study has termed the area with census tracts representing the maximum concentration of Puerto Ricans in the city of Chicago as the **Puerto Rican Influence Area** (PRIA). The PRIA is comprised of census tracts where Puerto Ricans make up more than 10% of the total population according to the 2010 Census. The maximum concentration of Puerto Ricans in the PRIA (and the City of Chicago) is 38%. In 2010, there were 48,390 Puerto Ricans living in the PRIA, which accounted for nearly half (47%) of the total Puerto Rican population living in Chicago. The other 53% are dispersed across the city in numbers that do not indicate significant concentration. See pages 18 - 21 for a description of the other races and origins that compose the PRIA.

**Puerto Rican Influence Area, 2010**

**Puerto Rican Concentration per Census Tract**
- 0% - 2%
- 3% - 5%
- 6% - 10%
- 11% - 20%
- 21% - 38%

**Puerto Rican Influence Area:**
Census Tracts > 10% Puerto Rican

**Influence Area Streets**

**Humboldt Park**
In order to flesh out data relevant to the Puerto Rican community living in Chicago, this study uses what we have termed “the PRIA” to zero-in on data that are not collected explicitly for Puerto Ricans. The majority of the data on Puerto Ricans presented in this report have been collected from the US Census Bureau, which generally distinguishes between race (e.g., white, black, Asian), ethnicity (Hispanic or Non-Hispanic) and ethnic origin (e.g., Mexican or Puerto Rican). However, there were a number of questions we wanted to answer where no data were available specifically for Puerto Ricans. For example, data on home values or crime incidents are not disaggregated by race, while other data—such as subsidized housing participation rates or juvenile arrests—are available only for Latinos in general.

In order to get around these data roadblocks, this study sometimes looks at where Puerto Ricans live. In the PRIA, there are 18,129 Puerto Rican households, which constitute almost 20% of the 96,058 total households. We assume, then, that the impact of any event in the PRIA—such as rising or falling home values—will also impact the Puerto Ricans, even though we lack exact Puerto Rican numbers. In addition, within the PRIA there are some data collected for Latinos but not Puerto Ricans. Because Puerto Rican households compose 35% of Latino households in the PRIA—less than Mexicans at 50%, but more than other Latinos at 15%—we feel reasonably confident saying that if Latinos are impacted by some condition in the PRIA, so are the Puerto Ricans. Through these sorts of methods, we circuitously get as close as possible to generating data for Puerto Ricans.

This tactic, of course, has a number of limitations; however, it provides us with the capacity to create estimates about Puerto Ricans that would otherwise be impossible. To further clarify our conclusions we compare those parts of the city with significant concentrations of Puerto Ricans (the PRIA for instance) with the broader population of the city of Chicago. These combined efforts help us to distinguish a Puerto Rican profile. As a word of caution, however, readers need to be reminded that much of the data collected for the PRIA looks not at Puerto Ricans specifically, but at the census tracts where they constitute between 11% and 38% of the total population.

Sections where the PRIA is used: Housing, Economic Development, Education and Youth & Justice.
Latino Concentration, Northwest Chicago, 2010

0% - 11%
12% - 26%
27% - 46%
47% - 70%
71% - 99%

Source: 2010 Census
Prepared by Elizabeth Scott, 4/12

Chicago Boundary
Chicago Community Areas
Chicago Suburban Municipalities

Humboldt Park
Puerto Rican Influence Area

Puerto Rican Influence Area: census tracts > 10% Puerto Rican population

Latino concentration per census tract, 2010
0% - 11%
12% - 26%
27% - 46%
47% - 70%
71% - 99%

miles
0 0.5 1 2 3 4

Puerto Rican Agenda Research Project
Mexican Concentration, Northwest Chicago, 2010

Puerto Rican Influence Area: census tracts > 10% Puerto Rican population

Humboldt Park
City of Chicago boundary

Source: 2010 Census
Prepared by Elizabeth Scott, 4/12
African American Concentration,
Northwest Chicago, 2010

NOTE: this map of African American concentration also includes African American Latinos.

Puerto Rican Influence Area: census tracts > 10% Puerto Rican population

Humboldt Park
City of Chicago boundary

African American concentration per census tract, 2010

0% - 8%
9% - 24%
25% - 48%
49% - 78%
79% - 99%

source: 2010 Census
prepared by Elizabeth Scott, 4/12
Humboldt Park is perceived as the symbolic center of Puerto Rican Chicago and, therefore, many studies have focused on the Humboldt Park community/neighborhood to address policy issues that deal with Puerto Ricans. However, “Humboldt Park” can be used to refer to a number of overlapping, but distinct geographies. It is defined primarily in three ways—it is important to distinguish between all the definitions, as both are used in this and other studies.

### Colloquial Humboldt Park

The Humboldt Park community also has a colloquial definition, defined by the people who have lived there in accordance to their shared identity (e.g., a sense of belonging or shared values). The neighborhood’s colloquial boundaries are: Western Avenue to the east, Pulaski Road to the west, Armitage Avenue to the north, and Chicago Avenue to the south. This study area is 26% Puerto Rican. Most non-profit organizations are concentrated within colloquial Humboldt Park, where there is more commercial and institutional zoning as opposed to residential zoning.

### Community Area 23

The official definition of the Humboldt Park Community Area comes from the Social Science Research Committee at the University of Chicago which dubs Humboldt Park “Community Area 23,” out of 77 Chicago communities. Since this definition has been in use since the 1920s, it predominates many conceptions of Humboldt Park even today, regardless of the fact that neighborhood dynamics have substantially changed Humboldt Park’s organic boundaries in the intervening 80 years. In 2010, there were about 9,000 Puerto Ricans in Community Area 23—making up 20% of the entire population in this community and accounting for 8.7% of the Puerto Rican population in Chicago as a whole. This definition does not include the Park nor many of the organizations and institutions that the Puerto Rican community perceives as being part of Humboldt Park. In terms of boundaries, many Puerto Rican institutions are actually located in West Town, which is Community Area 24. Politically, however, these organizations like to be identified as part of the Humboldt Park community.

Within the 77 Chicago communities, there are 288 smaller neighborhoods. In 2010, there were about 13,000 Puerto Ricans residing in this geography, accounting for about 13% of all Puerto Ricans in the city of Chicago. About 21% of the population in this area is Puerto Rican. This is not a very commonly used definition.

Sections where “Colloquial Humboldt Park” is used: Housing, and Non-Profit Capacity.
Section where “Community Area 23” is used: Health.
Sections where “Humboldt Park Neighborhood” is used: Gentrification Analysis and Neighborhood Change.