Mrs. Barbara Shaw:

On behalf of the Neighborhood Recovery Initiative Advisory Committee we wanted to thank you and the IVPA for all your efforts to ensure that youth violence is addressed all across Illinois. We do however have concerns regarding the initiative and certain components within it. We have written Governor Quinn in regards about our concerns. Below you will find the letter we wrote to the Governor and we look forward to meeting and working with you to resolve these concerns.

Dear Governor Pat Quinn,

It is our hope that this letter finds you well. We would like to congratulate you on your election victory. In addition, we are thankful your office has deemed violence prevention efforts vital to 23 communities in and around Chicago by introducing the Neighborhood Recovery Plan. Those signing this letter are members of the Pilsen-Little Village Neighborhood Recovery Initiative (NRI) advisory committee.

The committee recently met to make decisions related to NRI resources and services. Through the course of our discussion on how best to serve these two distinct communities and their residents a common theme recurred: The two communities of Pilsen and Little Village have unjustly been merged together, and NRI's cultural competency must be addressed for the realities in distinct Latino communities. The Pilsen-Little Village NRI advisory committee does not write you as a fractured group bickering over money. We write you as a unified group for fair distribution of resources.

Little Village alone is the youngest community area in Chicago and the second most densely populated community taking part in the NRI with over 91,000 residents. Pilsen adds more than 45,000 residents to this area. Both communities have historically experienced some of the highest rates of youth violence in the city. By comparison, Auburn Gresham is a community of under 56,000 residents, Brighton Park under 45,000 residents, East Garfield Park is under 21,000 residents, Humboldt Park under 66,000 residents and North Lawndale has under 42,000 residents according to the US Census Bureau (these are just a few of the communities in the NRI whose population was readily available at the newcommunities.org website).

What we ask is that this inequitable situation be rectified immediately. As we reviewed grant proposals, it was obvious that the innovative design of the initiative will be softened with such few slots for organizations to effectively administer the programs in such a populous area of Chicago. We also ask that the parent leadership component age requirements be modified. Parent participant age should be lowered to 21 to reflect the relatively young median age of Latino parents. We also ask that you look at an alternative payment structure that the state has used with previous initiatives so that all (omit Chicago) residents are eligible for the program.

We would like you to meet with the Pilsen-Little Village NRI advisory committee so we can discuss these issues with you and hear directly from you how they can be rectified. Please let us know a date that and time that would work for you. We look forward to hearing from you and resolving these issues.

Sincerely,
Pilsen/Little Village NRI Committee
Representatives:

Alivio Medical Center
Beyond the Ball

Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago, General Wood Unit
Chicago Youth Boxing Club
Enlace Chicago
Instituto del Progreso Latino
La Villita Community Church
Latinos Progresando
Mujeres Latinas en Accion
New Life Centers
Project VIDA
St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish Council
St. Anthony Hospital
St. Pius V Parish
Telpochcalli Community Education Project
YMCA of Metro Chicago Street Intervention Program