

2020 | Executive Annual Report



**CENTRO
SOL**
JOHNS HOPKINS
CENTER FOR SALUD/HEALTH & OPPORTUNITY FOR LATINOS

Equity in Health and Opportunities for Latinos

Table of Contents

<i>Executive Summary</i>	4
<i>Letter from Our Co-Directors</i>	7
<i>Activity Highlights per Core Area</i>	8
Education	8
Mentoring Program	9
Summer Programs	10
Summer Scholars Program	10
Summer Engagement Program	12
Accomplishments of the Youth Programs	13
Research & Policy	15
List of Projects	15
Infectious Diseases	15
RAPID-Baltimore: Rapid Access to Infectious Disease Information for Baltimore.....	15
Solo Se Vive Una Vez.....	16
Physical Health	16
Embajadores de Salud	16
Active and Healthy Families	16
Children & Maternal Health	17
Community-based mental health care for mothers of young children (Mothers & Babies).....	17
PROSPECT Study.....	17
Research Consultation Services	18
Translation Services	18
Policy and Advocacy	20
Community Outreach	21
The Census 2020	21
Latino Health Conference	23
La Hora del Café (The Coffee Hour)	25
Healthcare Access	26
Esperanza Center	26
TAP	26
Clinical Care Innovation	26
Juntos	26
Community COVID-19 Testing.....	26
Mental Health	27
Testimonios	27

Teen Testimonios 28

Depression Project..... 29

Suicide Prevention Program..... 30

COVID-19 Survivorship Support Group 30

Patient and Family Advisory Boards..... 31

 Latino Family Advisory Board (LFAB) 31

Community Resources..... 33

 Partnerships for 2020..... 33

 Community Engagement and Events Planning 34

 Volunteers 34

2020 - Pandemic COVID-19..... 35

 Food Access Program 35

 Cash Assistance Program 37

Accomplishments 38

 Outreach and grants 38

 Awards 40

Publications..... 40

Our Team..... 41

 Organizational Chart 41

 Faculty/Affiliate Faculty & Staff..... 42

Acknowledgements 43

Contact 43

Executive Summary

Centro SOL was established in 2013 to promote equity in health and opportunities for the Latinx community. In a time of uncertainty and unforeseen events, 2020 has left a devastating impact on the Latinx community in the City of Baltimore. Our faculty and staff have worked endlessly to provide culturally appropriate and viable resources, aid and information to the community.

The goal of the 2020 Executive Report is to summarize our transitions, efforts, and ongoing programs, as well as the highlights of our events, research projects and publications addressing mental health, childhood obesity, HIV and COVID-19.

FIVE CORE AREAS



Members in our team have been leading efforts at the local and state levels promoting equity in the access to services and resources for our immigrant Latinx neighbors. The COVID19 response tackled the needs of our community in three core areas:

- Mental health and cultural appropriate education
 - Mental health support groups
 - Educational weekly forums
- Frontline Community and Clinical Response
 - Food access
 - Housing and economic support
 - Language appropriate support for hospitalized patients
- Community-centered Research and Advocacy
 - Access to reliable information
 - Advocacy for equitable COVID19 rollout
 - Mental health and wellness

Education

In 2020, the established mentoring and tutoring program hosted 21 high school immigrant-origin students attending Baltimore City Public Schools during the school year. The mentoring/tutoring program is an extension of our Summer Scholars Program, established in 2014. Supporting the challenging transition caused by the pandemic, the program was offered virtually. Mentoring/tutoring sessions take place weekly and are staffed by the youth pipelines coordinator and volunteer mentors. The Summer Programs transitioned to a complete virtual and remote setting, hosting 30 youth as part of our summer scholars and youth engagement programs.

Research

Centro SOL is home to multiple small and large research projects, in a multidisciplinary environment including child health, maternal health, social determinants of health, mental health, and infectious diseases. This report summarizes the most prominent projects conducted in 2020.

Clinical Innovations/ Community Health

Community-centered approaches to address the most pressing issues in public health have demonstrated to be effective when working with marginalized communities. Programs and research focus on prevention and building community cohesion, through the lens of those who better know their own needs. We do not bring the solution, but we promote our golden rule of community and patient centeredness. Projects in mental health and community cohesion shaped by the pandemic were developed in 2020.

Community Outreach

In partnership with local organizations, Centro SOL has been at the forefront in community outreach since its inception. Every year, we host and co-host dozens of events to bring people together, to build community, to promote resilience and to advocate for our communities. An active social media and redesigned website support our efforts to reach out to our community. This year, with the Latinx community being the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, Centro SOL partnered with healthcare providers and local organization to address food insecurity, barriers to access to care and lack of cultural appropriate information serving thousands every week.



Note from our Executive Director

It is humbling to me being able to serve the Latino community as a member of Centro SOL for more than seven years. It has been a privilege to hear stories, build trust and design programs with the families I interact with. It is inspiring to learn from their resilience and to share experiences of our journeys. At Centro SOL, I am a learner surrounded by compassionate and dedicated professionals who serve our community, individuals from multiple backgrounds, for whom I am very grateful. I understand that it takes a lot of courage to promote equity among historically marginalized communities, but Baltimore City has a lot to teach us, and I will continue to learn and advocate for equity for all with you, for as long as there is a need.

I hope these pages give the reader a glimpse of all the exceptional and innovative work happening every day at Centro SOL. Please continue sharing, volunteering, donating, reaching out to us.

For your support, thank you!

Monica Guerrero Vazquez, MS, MPH

Letter from Our Co-Directors

2020 is a year that brought us together as one community to protect those who are often forgotten

It gives us pride to live the legacy that our Latinx community is leaving in the City of Baltimore.

It is inspiring to meet them opening new businesses, participating in programs, represented in politics, and accomplishing great success. They overcome challenges influenced by federal policies like risk of deportation to the mental health toll due to the lack of resources. In 2020, the lives taken by the coronavirus broke our hearts, as we all witnessed the disproportionate impact of COVID19 in BIPOC communities including Latinos, caused in part by the historic inequalities that cannot continue being ignored.

The COVID19 pandemic is teaching us a lesson of humility and reminding us to remain vigilant to advocate and ensure that marginalized communities are included in decision making processes in our society and receive the benefits and protections they deserve.

We are proud of our team's resilience. Our faculty, staff and volunteers, worked tirelessly to bring support and love to our families in urgent need. These lines are dedicated to them, in gratitude for the sacrifice to serve the most vulnerable and the thousands of families who lost a loved one due to COVID19.

Thank you

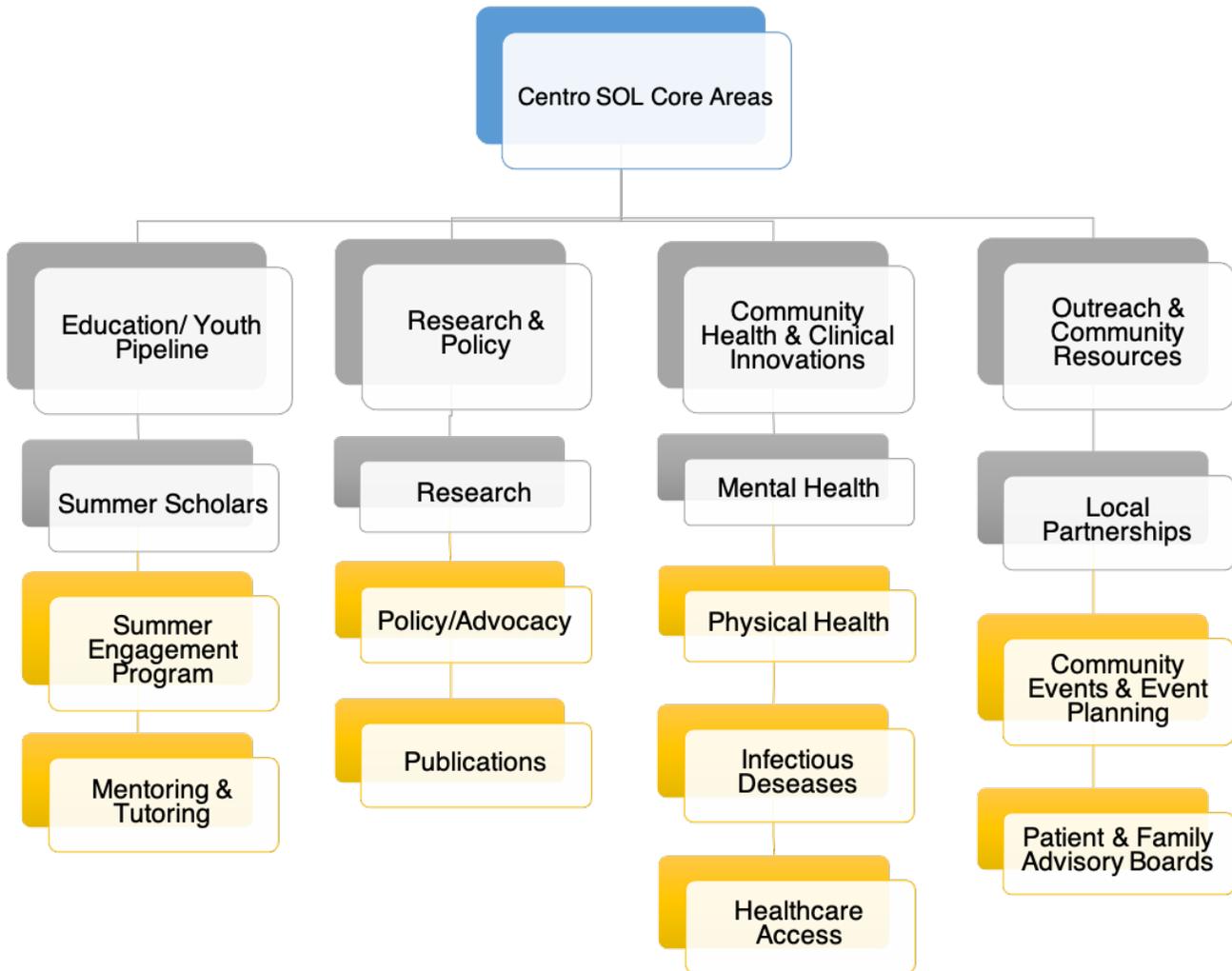


Sarah Polk, MD, MSc
Department of Pediatrics



Kathleen Page, MD
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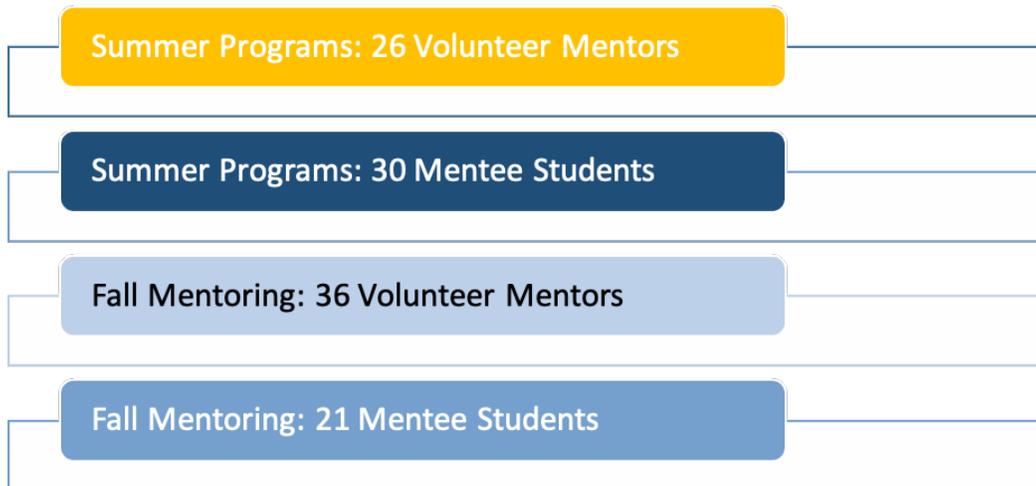
Activity Highlights per Core Area



Education

Mentoring Program

Program description: Centro SOL aims to provide a meaningful mentoring experience for Latinx high school students in need of guidance and support throughout high school. We achieve our goal by enlightening students about the college application process, financial aid, course selection, homework assistance, employment opportunities, and other topics, as deemed necessary. The mentoring component of the program works with volunteer mentors who are paired with youth participating in the program. Our youth programs coordinator matches two mentors with one mentee to ensure that each youth has ongoing support. The tutoring component of this program is primarily for middle and elementary school students. Tutors provide immediate help with homework and class assignments. Tutors do not work with the same students as mentors, but they may step in the role of the mentor, in the event that a mentor is unable to attend a session.



Changes since the pandemic: Traditionally, the mentoring program hosts weekly in-person sessions, with the Patterson Park Library being the selected location for the year of 2020. By March 2020, as the world was greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mentoring program was transitioned to a virtual setting, restricting students without reliable internet access or a computer. To help with this hurdle, we were able collect refurbished laptops from the community and purchase hotspots for those students in need.

Summer Programs

In partnership with Youthworks, our summer programs hosted 32 immigrant-origin youth. The summer programs have two components, Summer Scholars that hosts youth interested in healthcare and preparing college applications, and the Summer Engagement program hosts youth who are navigating career development opportunities.

Summer Scholars Program

Program Description: The goal of the Summer Scholars program is to expose bilingual students to careers in medicine, research, and healthcare while equipping them with the tools to make informed decisions about their education. This year, the Centro SOL Summer Scholars program was held entirely online to accommodate for the recent COVID-19 epidemic. All sessions were held via Zoom from 10am to 3pm. Like previous years, we held presentations and invited guests to discuss college readiness, research, healthcare, and community involvement. Due to COVID-19 and in-person meeting restrictions, students did not have the opportunity to have hospital on-site experiences or shadowing healthcare personnel. To compensate for the lack of the in-person component, community involvement was emphasized with the introduction of Latinx healthcare workers, who served as role models for the youth, including doctors, entrepreneurs, and other college students of various documentation status. This year, Spanish composition had a larger focus, with sessions that promoted writing and speaking in Spanish. Due to the nature of the remote and virtual setting, we also incorporated a mentoring support system to help the scholars with academic and emotional support. Each scholar was paired with a mentor volunteer for the entirety of the program.



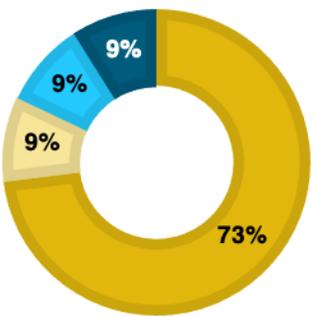
Figure 2. Snapshot of the Summer Scholars Program

Participant Demographics



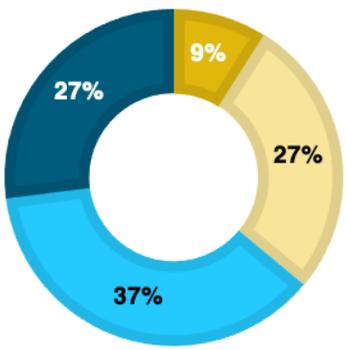
PARTICIPANTS COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

■ El Salvador ■ Mexico ■ Dominican Republic ■ Peru



PARTICIPANT AGES

■ 14 Years ■ 16 Years ■ 17 Years ■ 18 Years



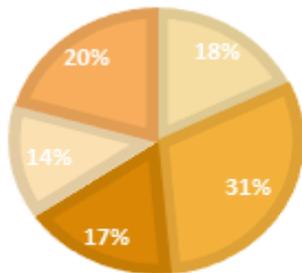
Summer Engagement Program

Program Description: The Summer Engagement Program has expanded its reach to allow more immigrant Latinx youth the opportunities to gain soft skills while also helping youth realize the importance of their bilingualism in a professional setting. In collaboration with Baltimore City's YouthWorks program, students are placed in various organizations throughout Baltimore City for the entirety of the five-week program. These organizations include, Southeast CDC, Creative Alliance, Soccer Without Borders, Esperanza Center, and P-Tech.

Changes since the pandemic: Our team identified the technology gap affecting the most vulnerable communities. Most participants in our program did not have reliable access to internet or a computer to study at home, some shared one laptop with more than children. To bridge that gap students worked received a laptop and Wi-Fi hotspot. Due to the nature of the remote and virtual setting, we incorporated a mentoring support system to help the students with academic and emotional support. Each student was paired with a mentor volunteer for the entirety of the program.

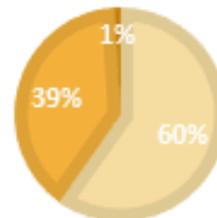
APPLICANT'S GRADE LEVEL

- 9th Grade
- 10th Grade
- 11th Grade
- 12th Grade
- Not in High School



APPLICANT'S GENDER

- Female
- Male
- Other



Applicant's Grade Distribution between High Schools

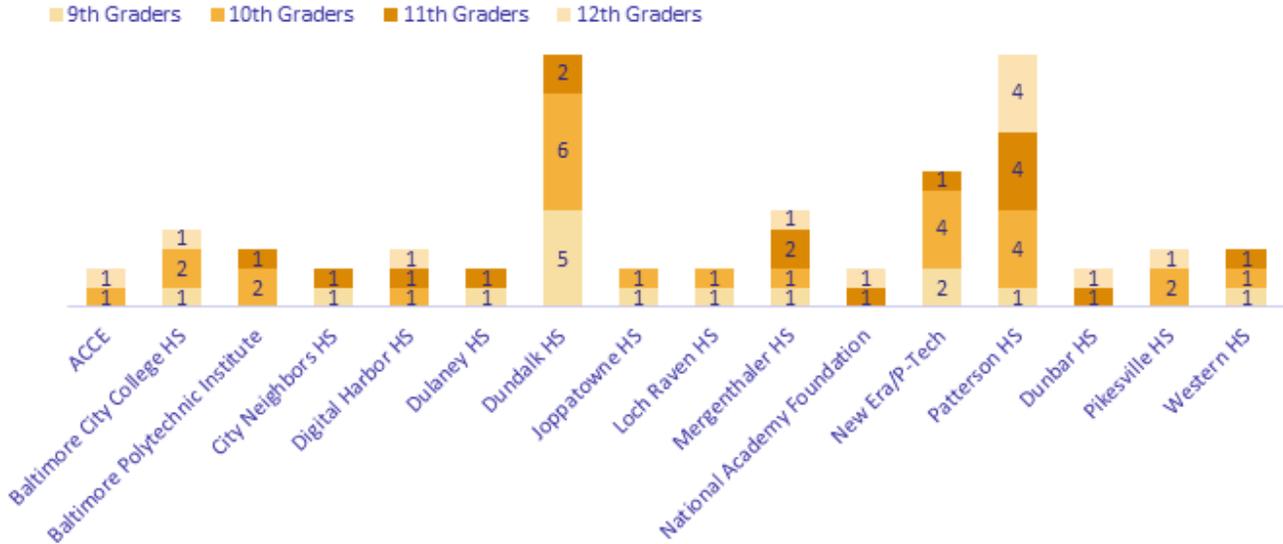


Table 4: Number of students per grade level per school that applied to Summer Engagement 2020.



Accomplishments of the Youth Programs

Our faculty, staff, volunteers and students worked tirelessly to ensure equitable access to summer opportunities for our young Latinx neighbors. A summary of our accomplishments in 2020 is depicted in the image below. Our team represented the community in multiple settings from National Federal Programs to local-based and Johns Hopkins Programs.



Research & Policy

List of Projects

Our research teams use community-centered approaches to inform our research projects. Part of the efforts include the translation of research into programming and action plans. The following table lists some of the projects that were launched, ended and continued in 2020.

Infectious Diseases	Child & Maternal Health	Mental Health	Physical Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Rapid-Baltimore - Rapid Access to Infectious Disease Information for Baltimore •COVID-19 response: Juntos, a Spanish-Speaking Provider Consultation Team •HIV •COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mothers & Babies •PROSPECT Study •Family Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Stulman •Kids FACE FEARS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •PCORI •DPP •Embajadores De Salud

Infectious Diseases

RAPID-Baltimore: Rapid Access to Infectious Disease Information for Baltimore

Program Description: RAPID is a data-light mobile-accessible application that centralizes links to non-English COVID-19 information to increase information and awareness among Baltimore City residents. RAPID-Baltimore will act as conduit between the user and existing resources (e.g. alerts from state and local health departments, government orders, health education material, fighting myths and misinformation) ensuring that users are accessing up-to-date information in real time. This project is a multidisciplinary collaboration with Centro SOL, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the Johns Hopkins School of Engineering. The project was funded by a seed grant by the Johns Hopkins Alliance for a Healthier World in 2020.

Solo Se Vive Una Vez

Program description: Centro SOL collaborates with the program Solo se Vive una Vez (You only live once) to prevent HIV/AIDS in the Latinx community in Baltimore. The program led by Centro SOL co-director, Dr. Kathleen Page, provides HIV screenings and collaborates with the Baltimore City Health Department and the Moore HIV Clinic to encourage people to get tested frequently and confront the stigma around this illness.

Physical Health

Embajadores de Salud

Program Description: Our goal with Embajadores de Salud (Health Ambassadors) is to educate the community through lectures offered in Spanish and follow-up physical activities that lead to healthier habits and improve their health. This is done through participatory sessions that meet the participants' needs and restrictions. The program started in 2014 as an health literacy program with a series of workshops, and currently offers weekly sessions to promote healthy habits and create awareness about preventable diseases including obesity and diabetes.

Changes since the pandemic: The program restructured the sessions to offer virtual wellness sessions including Zumba classes, mindfulness and reflections about stress during the pandemic. Many participants requested assistance to access healthy food.

Active and Healthy Families

Program Description: Active and Healthy Families (AHF) is a family-centered pediatric overweight group appointment program for overweight/obese Latino children developed by Contra Costa Health Services in California. AHF content draws on evidence-based national guidelines and was culturally tailored through interviews with Latino parents and focus groups with parents in the pilot series. Various adaptations were made in order to increase cultural relevance, including emphasizing a family-centered program, adding a *promotora* (community health worker), and considering risk factors specific to Latino children. With the guidance of these comprehensive AHF materials, we will pilot the program at the Children's Medical Practice of the Bayview Medical Center and assess

whether this culturally tailored family-based program leads to significant decreases in child body mass index (BMI) and other measures in addition to risk factors of obesity among our target population.

Children & Maternal Health

Community-based mental health care for mothers of young children

(Mothers & Babies)

Project Description: Our goal is to address the mental health and social needs in limited English proficient (LEP) Latina mothers of young children. We have adapted and begun piloting an evidence-based, group intervention for the prevention of maternal depression, Mothers and Babies, in partnership with early learning centers. Early learning center staff recommend program participation to women in their existing programs or who otherwise seem likely to benefit from Mothers and Babies. A therapist co-facilitates the 12-session intervention with a community health worker or school staff. The first pilot program was hosted in-person at an early learning center in January 2020.

Changes since the pandemic: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic we converted the program to a virtual format and added an “ask the doctor,” component to each session to answer participants’ (public) health questions. We started a second virtual round of the Mothers and Babies in October 2020 with mother participants from 2 early learning centers. Preliminary results indicate that the program is feasible and acceptable. Next steps are to, 1) work with a multisector stakeholder network to create a sustainability plan, 2) continue program evaluation and 3) incorporate addressing food insecurity into the existing program.

PROSPECT Study

Project Description: The goals of the proposed research are to examine the relationship of family-, household-, and neighborhood-level exposures with growth trajectories among 0-2-year-olds; to facilitate future research exploring the role of epigenetic changes in explaining childhood obesity disparities; and to inform the development of effective policies and programs to prevent childhood obesity and eliminate racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in childhood obesity risk.

Changes since the pandemic: In order to maintain the safety of the participants and the project members, all home visits were converted to a remote virtual setting. A COVID-19 survey was also implemented to further understand the challenges of COVID-19 on our participants and their families.

Research Consultation Services

Program Description: Centro SOL offers this program to assist researchers at Johns Hopkins and other universities in conducting high quality health research inclusive of Latinx populations, especially those with limited English proficiency (LEP). Centro SOL offers support for study planning, material review, participant recruitment, and study staff recruitment. In 2020, we worked with researchers on 21 research consultation requests. The most common services requested were Material review, participant recruitment strategy, and study planning.

Changes since the pandemic: COVID has caused the suspension or cancellation of many research activities and was resulted in a slight reduction in research consultation requests since 2019. However, requests for translation services have risen drastically as infectious disease and vaccine researchers have worked to include Latinx populations in their studies due to the increased impact COVID has had on this population.

Translation Services

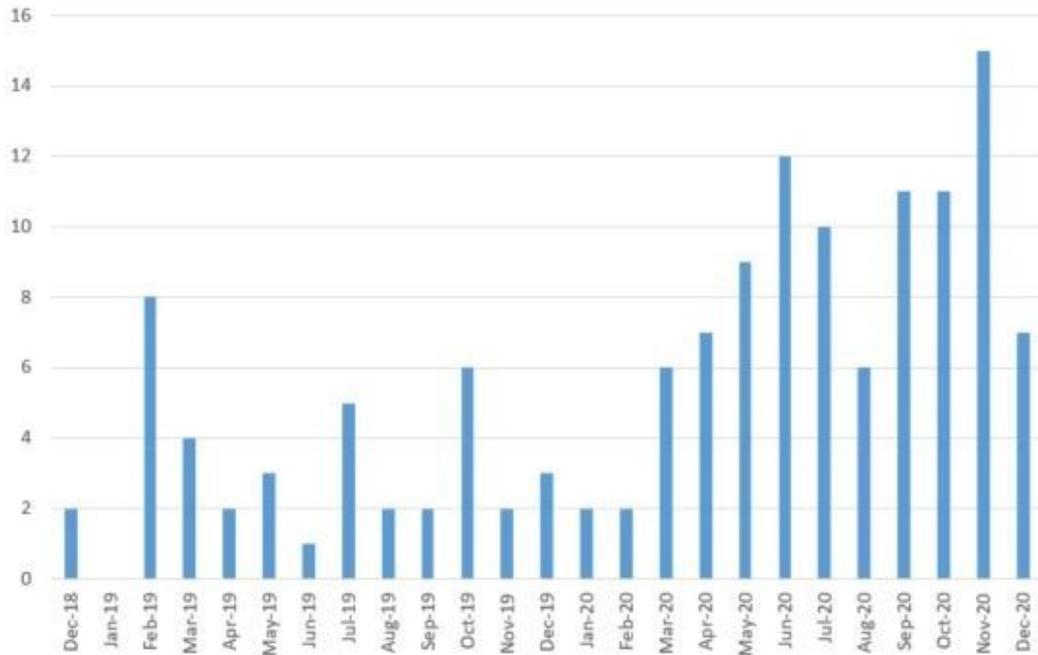
Program description: Centro SOL started offering translation services in 2014 and has developed over the years as more and more studies are including Latinx populations in research. In addition to English-Spanish translation, we offer transcription and review of already translated materials. These services can be requested as part of a larger research consultation request or as a separate service.

The most common documents translated were consent forms and scripts, recruitment scripts, and recruitment materials. The most common audios transcribed were one-on-one qualitative interviews.

Changes since the pandemic Following the start of the pandemic, translation requests started rising. Between April and November, requests ranged between 7 and 15 per month, in comparison to 2 to 3 per month during the previous months. While some requests were for COVID-related adjustments to current studies (adding COVID-19 surveys or adjusting language to consents and scripts given remote restrictions), the

majority of the requests were specific to COVID-19 studies being conducted at Johns Hopkins. This year has opened up interdepartmental conversations about facilitating a system-wide response to the needs of our researchers and community to ensure accessible translation services and allow for the inclusion of LEP participants in research.

Centro SOL Translation Service Requests
December 2018 - December 2020



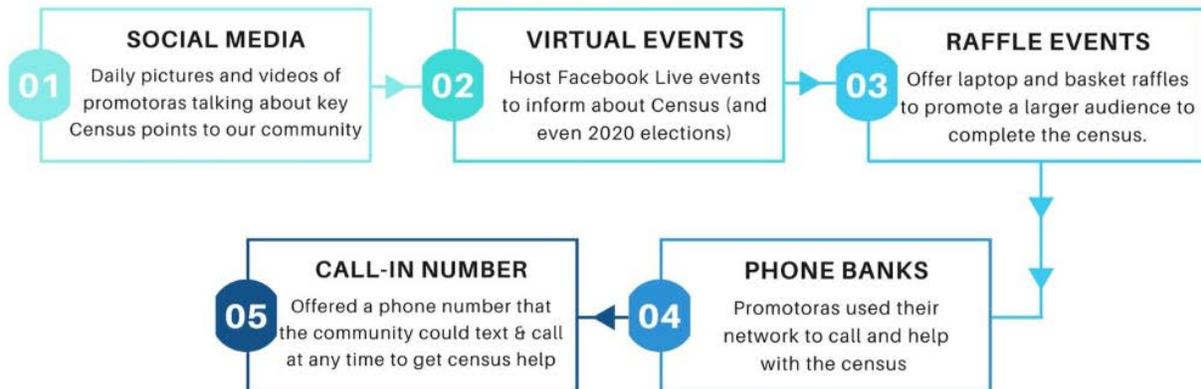
“Don’t fear decisions; embrace them. They allow you to explore new ideas and places. They mark the pathways that make your journey unique.”

-Dr. France A. Córdoba

Community Outreach

The Census 2020

Description: Our Census campaign aimed at increasing the Census participation of the Latinx population in Hard-to-Count neighborhoods, like Brooklyn and Lakeland, in South Baltimore. Our goal would be to identify and assist 125 immigrant households with their Census. We would accomplish this by following a community-centered approach - a collaboration with promotoras. Women that were informative, trusted, and well-connected leaders in the Latinx community. Starting strong in January, our team was trained by the Office of the Census Bureau and our promotoras began recruiting households to engage. Promotoras reached over 227 households.



Milestones Achieved: Between January and October, our campaign tracked the outcome of (1) number of households assisted by our promotoras* (including zip codes), (2) reach of our virtual events, and (3) other social media post insights). The following reflects this data.

Within the 227 households, we found:

30 zip codes, with majority in Brooklyn, Lakeland, and Highlandtown

Most of the people calling in for assistance were women

Provided 4 laptop and 8 surprise giveaways to 12 of these households

All of the households were Latinx

Canvassing



At least 22 local businesses in South Baltimore

2 schools during their food distribution events

4 churches in South Baltimore

5 times with MIMA in Highlandtown

Our Census Campaign Impact



Latino Health Conference

Description: Since 2015, Centro SOL has presented topics to address pressing public health issues affecting the Latinx community to equip providers and public health professionals alike on improving lives of the new communities. Since 2018, the center has worked in a project to address obesity disparities disproportionately affecting Latino children. Latino children have among the highest rates of early childhood overweight and obesity of any racial or ethnic group in the U.S. To address the gap between the recommended treatment for childhood obesity and patient/family-centered intensive childhood weight management, our center established a network based on a Patient Centered Outcome Research method (PCOR). The network has analyzed barriers, assets, components and actors needed for effective/community-centered weight management interventions. In 2020, the Centro SOL and the Center for Health Equity partner to present a conference focused on childhood obesity, a condition that is particularly affecting Latinx children. The conference will present lessons learned from a

patient-centered research and an action plan proposing solution to weight management and obesity.

Conference attendees:

PANEL A - Coalition Building and Partnerships for Community Progress:

Description: This panel will discuss lessons learned for collaboration and coalition building to mobilize community-informed and family-centered initiatives for health promotion across the lifespan. **Panelists:** Nakiya Showell, M.D., M.H.S., M.P.H.; Carmen Alvarez, PHD, MSN, RN; Raquel Hernandez, M.D., Rachel Thornton, M.D., Ph.D. (moderator)

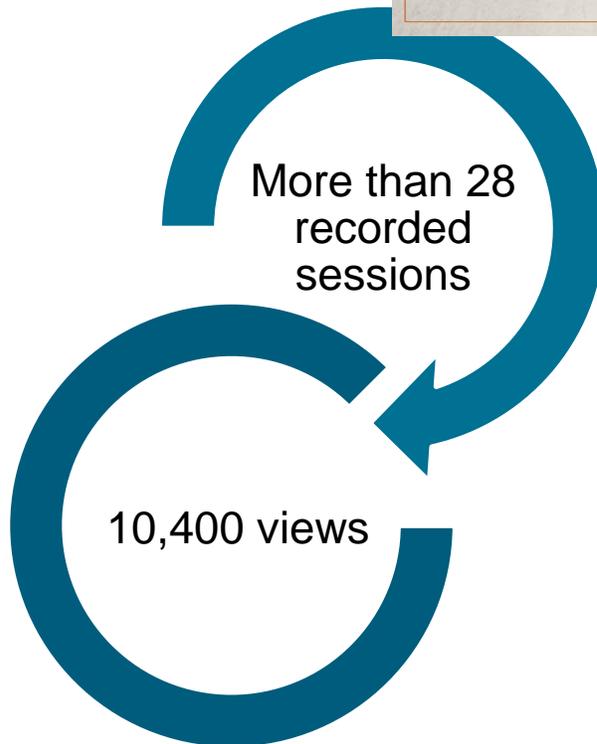
PANEL B - Schools as Resources:

Description: This panel will discuss the potential action areas at schools to promote policy change and programming to address childhood obesity. **Panelists:** Michael Glenwick, M.A.T, M.Ed; Kate Connor, M.D., M.S.P.H.; Elizabeth Marchetta; Josh Sharfstein, M.D (moderator)



La Hora del Café (The Coffee Hour)

Description: With the pandemic forcing many to stay home in uncertainty, Centro SOL partnered with Comite Latino's president, Lucia Islas, to provide a weekly chat via Facebook Live. Each week, medical professionals, community leaders, and community members were invited to discuss on a variety of topics. Ranging from the COVID-19 virus, to at home activities and school policies, La Hora del Café brought together viable information for the Latinx community.



Healthcare Access

Esperanza Center

Description: Is the main entry point for primary care for underinsured patients. Centro SOL currently has multiple collaborations with this organization, including mental health initiatives, diabetes prevention programs, and other projects that aim to make health care more accessible to the Latinx population in Baltimore. With COVID-19, Esperanza center has become a central point to refer underinsured, immigrant patients with COVID symptoms, for testing and resources for food, hotel isolation, and contact tracing.

TAP

Description: The Access Partnership (TAP) Program aims to facilitate access to medical care for underinsured patients. TAP is an initiative from Johns Hopkins Medicine and has been working in partnership with Centro SOL to provide medical care to a community in need.

Clinical Care Innovation

Juntos

Program Description: In a collaborative effort between the Johns Hopkins Medicine Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Johns Hopkins Medicine Language Services and Centro SOL, a new pilot program — called *Juntos* — launched on May 5. The overall goal of this program is to promote the most effective care for vulnerable Spanish-speaking inpatients diagnosed with COVID-19 by deploying bilingual and culturally competent clinicians who can work together (*Juntos*) with the primary team to optimize clinical communication, engage family members as appropriate, and address relevant issues that may impact recovery and safe discharge.

Community COVID-19 Testing

As the Latinx community was drastically impacted by the spread of COVID-19, Dr. Kathleen Page, M.D., associate professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, helped organize the community testing effort. The team's first testing events took place at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in East Baltimore, in the 21224 zip-code, which was designated as a "hot spot" by the City Health Department. With the neighborhood and parish having a largely Latinx population, Centro SOL assisted with the distribution of the testing site information via social media.



Dr. Kathleen Page with the Johns Hopkins team leading COVID19 testing and vaccine distribution at Sacred Heart church in Highlandtown

Mental Health

In 2020, we dedicated resources to understand, support, and prevent mental health issues impacting the community. We established new programs to support COVID19 patients and adapted our mental health existing programming to offer it virtually. Thanks to the generous support from the Stulman Foundation, our team was able to revamp the mental health programming for uninsured Latinos.

Testimonios

Program Description: Testimonios is a community-based support group for Latinx adults based in Baltimore. The groups are facilitated by a bilingual therapist in Spanish and aim to provide a safe space for participants to share experiences and learn culturally appropriate mechanisms for stress reduction.



Changes since the pandemic: Midway through march, we cancelled 2 in-person sessions. Starting in April, we transitioned to virtual meetings on the Zoom platform. As a result of these changes, we began taking participants only through referrals to provide a safer space to past participants. Referrals could either be by a health or community professional. In October, we expanded this process to include self-referrals.

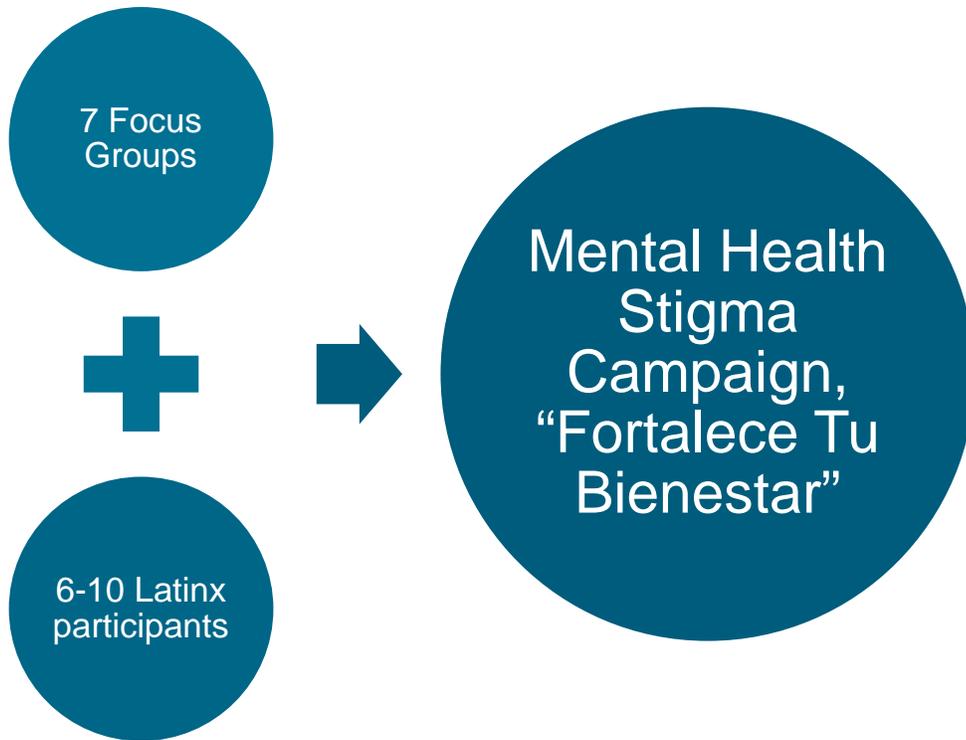
Teen Testimonios

Program Description: Teen Testimonios was created originally as a school-based intervention to address stress and post-traumatic symptoms in youth recently arrived in the U.S. The program was expanded as a summer camp for a duration of 2-week. The camp was organized by two coordinators, thanks to Centro SOL's partnership with the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Johns Hopkins University JUMP program. During the sessions, the participants learned about self-care and coping mechanisms to deal with stress and anxiety, as well as the opportunity to practice their English skills in different social activities. In partnership with community organizations such as Art with a Heart, to learn about art, healthy relationships, and nutrition, they were able to facilitate activities in a safe and careful manner.

Changes since the pandemic: Due to the pandemic, capacity was limited to only accept 10 students. We also were limited to the number of activities planned, as social distancing guidelines had to be followed.

Depression Project

Program Description: This project aims to work collaboratively with community members, healthcare providers, and others to improve the cultural appropriateness and availability of mental health services to treat depression among Latino immigrants living in Baltimore City. We aim to do so by focusing on reducing mental health stigma among the Latinx community, piloting evidence-based community-led interventions to treat depression and creating the “The Latino Mental Health Equity Strategy: Opportunities for Lay-Led Interventions for Depression” action plan.



Changes since the pandemic: In mid-March, with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were forced to make many adaptations with the project. This included having to re-design the Strong Minds Intervention so that it could be implemented

virtually, which included making some modifications to the curriculum, redesigning the intervention's material, and making a lot of structural changes to how the intervention would be carried out. Our team was also focused on ensuring the well-being of our community members, particularly our Patient Subcommittee. We met and checked in with them regularly to make sure that they were doing ok and provide referrals to any food, education, and other social and financial assistance that they required.

Suicide Prevention Program

Program Description: The goal of the Suicide Prevention Program is to inform the Latino community about stress reduction and provide resources focused on suicide prevention. A short presentation in Spanish is delivered during each session in collaboration with community-based organizations as well as professionals providing mental health services such as providers and social workers.

COVID-19 Survivorship Support Group

Program Description: Patients who were hospitalized due to COVID19 anywhere in the City can now join the COVID19 support group. The group offered at no cost for underinsured/uninsured patients, follows a cognitive behavioral patient-centered approach that is facilitated in Spanish by a psychotherapist.

Patient and Family Advisory Boards

Latino Family Advisory Board (LFAB)

Our Latino Family Advisory Board, *El Consejo de Familias Latinas*, is composed of Spanish-speaking families from the community who are dedicated to helping promote and create better health services to meet Latino families' needs. Our meetings provide an opportunity for Johns Hopkins physicians, researchers, and staff to meet with families that receive care at the Bayview Children's Medical Practice (CMP) and talk about the challenges Latinos face in receiving health care. El Consejo was established in 2011 by Dr. Lisa DeCamp and Dr. Sarah Polk, both pediatricians at CMP. This year, we celebrated our 7th year of engaging Spanish-speaking Latino families to improve healthcare services at the CMP, the JHBMC and throughout Johns Hopkins Medicine

Clinical Care Improvement

The *Consejo* (Board) advised on communications project for the clinic, in that moment the project was developed as part of the Armstrong Institute Leadership Academy, and now it continues to be a work in progress to be launched in 2021.

Members provided feedback and improved materials for informational flyers distributed at the clinic, mostly about car seats and the Judy Center programs.

Members advised on communication strategies during the pandemic.

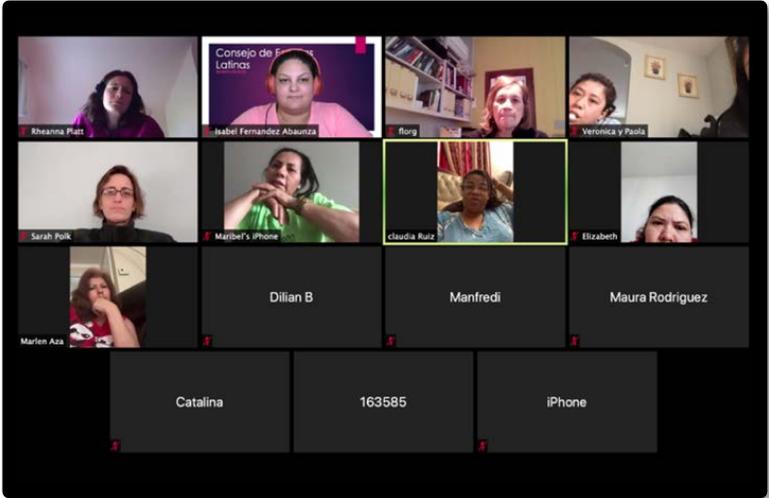
Research

Our *Consejo* provided feedback on essential questions about the project: PCORI - community-based participatory research project on childhood obesity. The goal is to establish an action network that will create a community-based action plan to address childhood obesity.

Reviewed and improved recruitment material for Centro SOL's study project on childhood anxiety, *Kids Face Fears*. Members of El Consejo suggested culturally appropriate changes to the project's recruitment and clinical trials materials.

Community Activism

Many of LFAB members participated as “Promotoras del censo” promoting and guiding people in the community as to how to complete the census 2020 online or by phone.



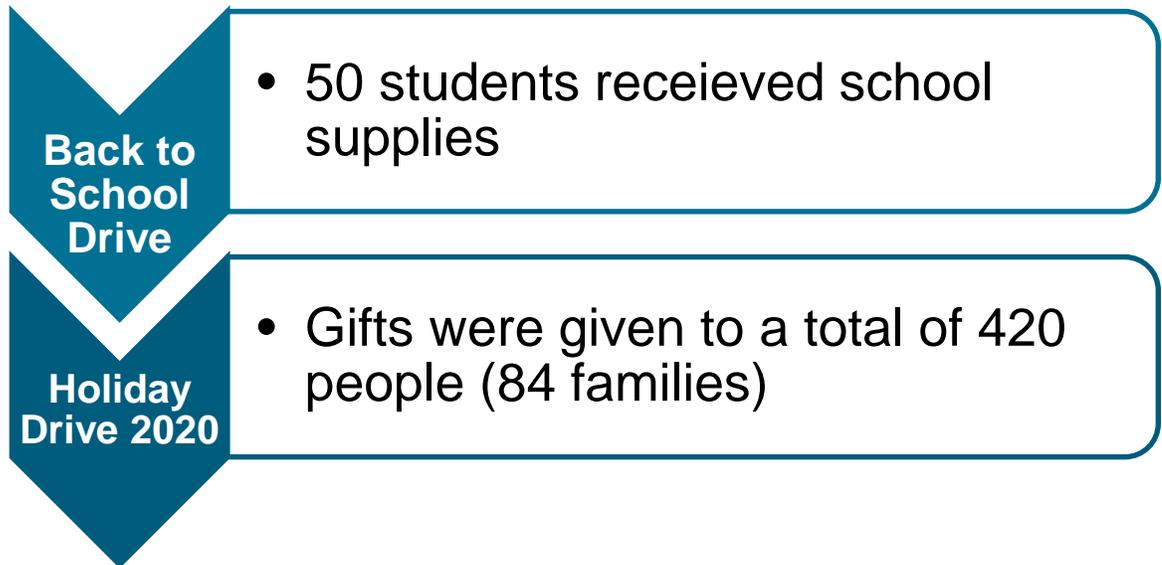
Community Resources

Partnerships for 2020

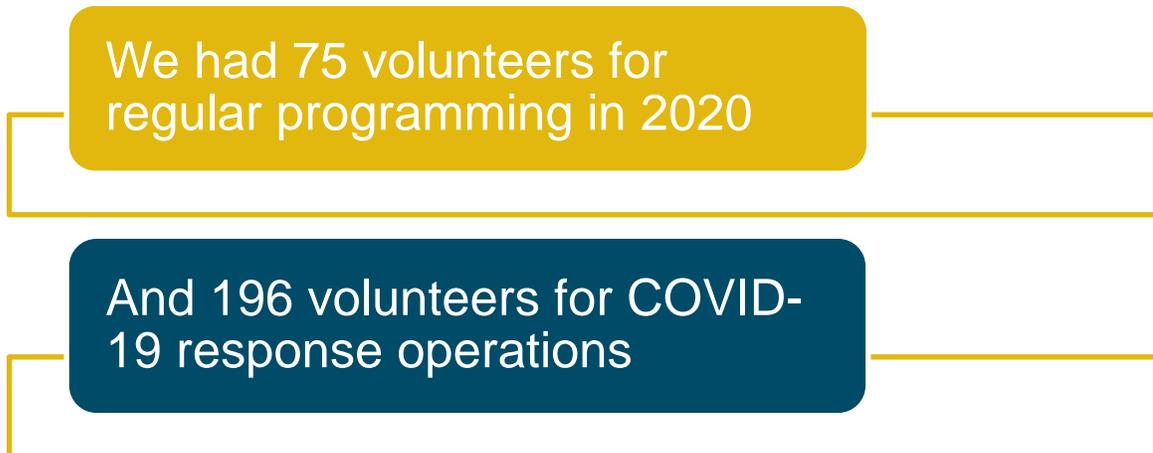
Art with a Heart
Baltimore City Health Department
Baltimore City Public Schools
Baltimore City Summer Funding Collaborative
Baltimore City Office of Planning
Baltimore Medical Systems
Bloomberg American Health Initiative
Bloomberg Philanthropies
CASA
Census Bureau
Center for Adolescent Health
Center for Humanitarian Health
Circles of Voices
Comite Latino de Baltimore
Creative Alliance
District 46 Legislative Offices
Enoch Pratt Free Library
France-Merrick Foundation
Friends of Patterson Park
Gallery Church
HeartSmiles
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Johns Hopkins Institute for Translational Research
Johns Hopkins Institutional Review Board

Johns Hopkins Medicine and Infectious Diseases
Johns Hopkins Psychiatry and Pediatrics
Lanea Featherstone Foundation
Latino Providers Network
Latino Public Health Network
Leonard & Helen R. Stulman Charitable Foundation
Living Classrooms Foundation
Maryland Latino Caucus
Massachusetts General Hospital
Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
Planned Parenthood
Sacred Heart Church of Baltimore
Somos Baltimore Latino
Southeast CDC
Straus Foundation
The Aaron and Lillie Straus Foundation
The Judy Centers
The Stoop Storytelling
Urban Health Institute
Youthworks

Community Engagement and Events Planning



Volunteers



2020 – Pandemic COVID-19

From the beginning of March, the Centro SOL has been very engaged in ways to distribute correct information about the virus and as of how to prevent getting sick and keeping the community informed on best practices.

Food Access Program

In late March, after the approval of the CARES Act, immigrant families were particularly affected by the policy that explicitly excluded them from receiving the stimulus check. The number of families impacted by COVID19 increased, and Latino-serving organizations established the *Comunidad Unida*. A collaborative effort to serve Latino families experiencing food insecurity and unable to receive any social benefits.

The collaborative was launched on May 2nd by Southeast CDC, Comite Latino de Baltimore, Baltimore City Cancer Program, Gallery Church and Centro SOL. This effort expanded Centro SOL existing effort to delivery groceries to families' homes.

Strengths of the program

Strong network of support

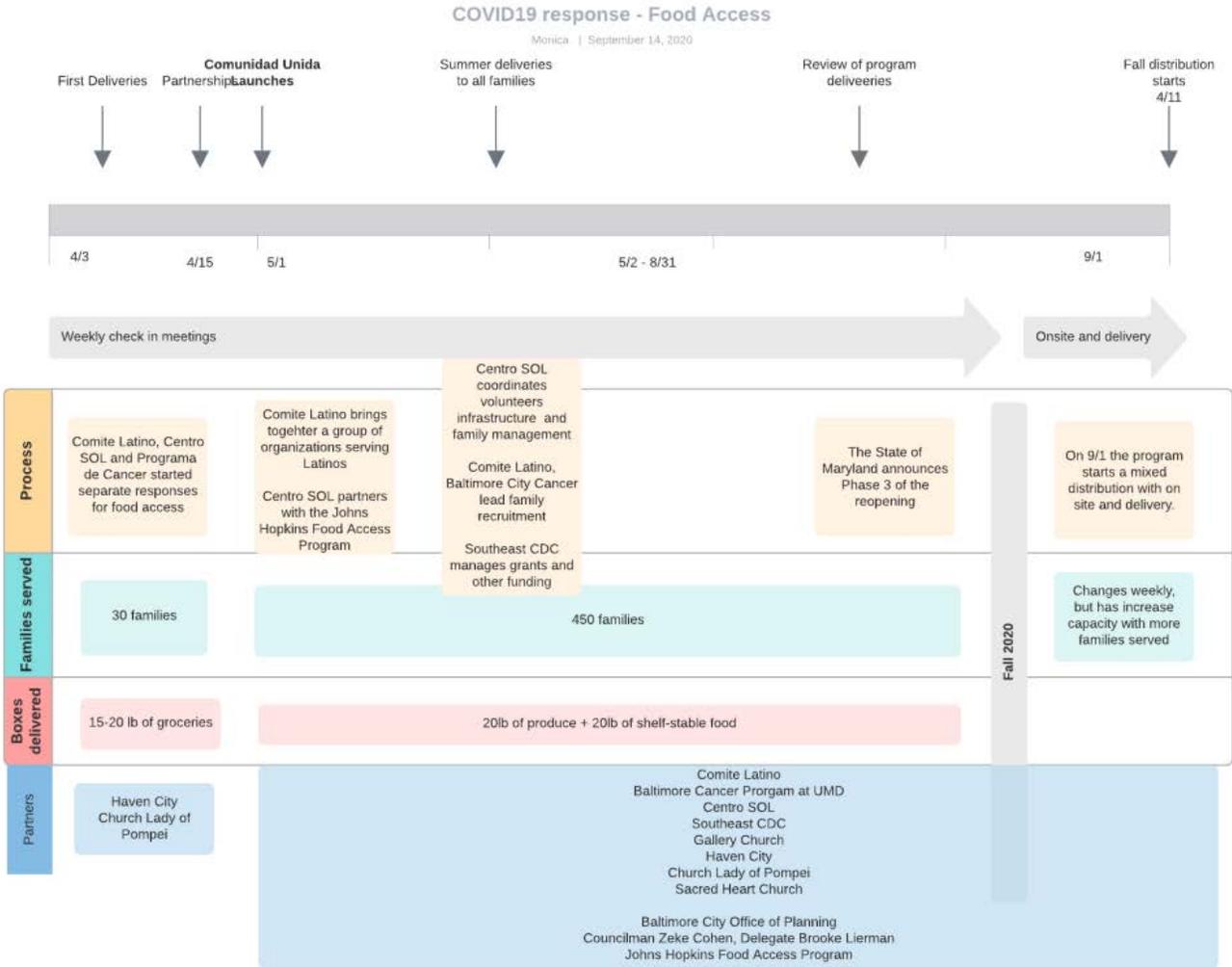
- Grant and donations were granted easily at the beginning of the program
- Support from City programs providing food including the Baltimore City Food Advocacy Initiative and the Johns Hopkins Food Access Program

Challenges

- Increasing number of requests from community members
- Lack of resources to deliver
- Multiple sources donated food at different times, which made it difficult to organize the team



Our Impact



Cash Assistance Program

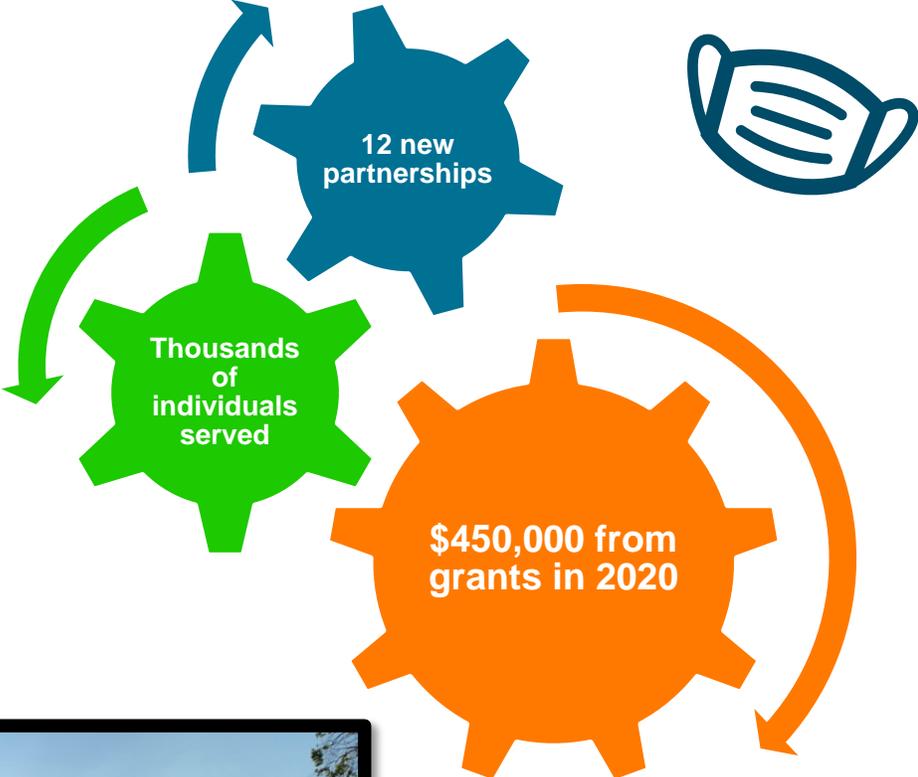
The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA) is a result of a recommendation from *The New Americans Task Force, The Role of Immigrants in Growing Baltimore*—a diverse group of stakeholders convened in the summer of 2013 to develop a plan to retain and attract immigrants as part of the mayor's goal to grow Baltimore¹.

In collaboration with MIMA, Centro SOL helped facilitate the communication for the distribution of economic aid to families in need in Baltimore City sponsored in part by the Baltimore Community Foundation. Each family received \$800 and individuals without children received \$400. The cash was a relief for rent, medications, food and other essential home supplies.

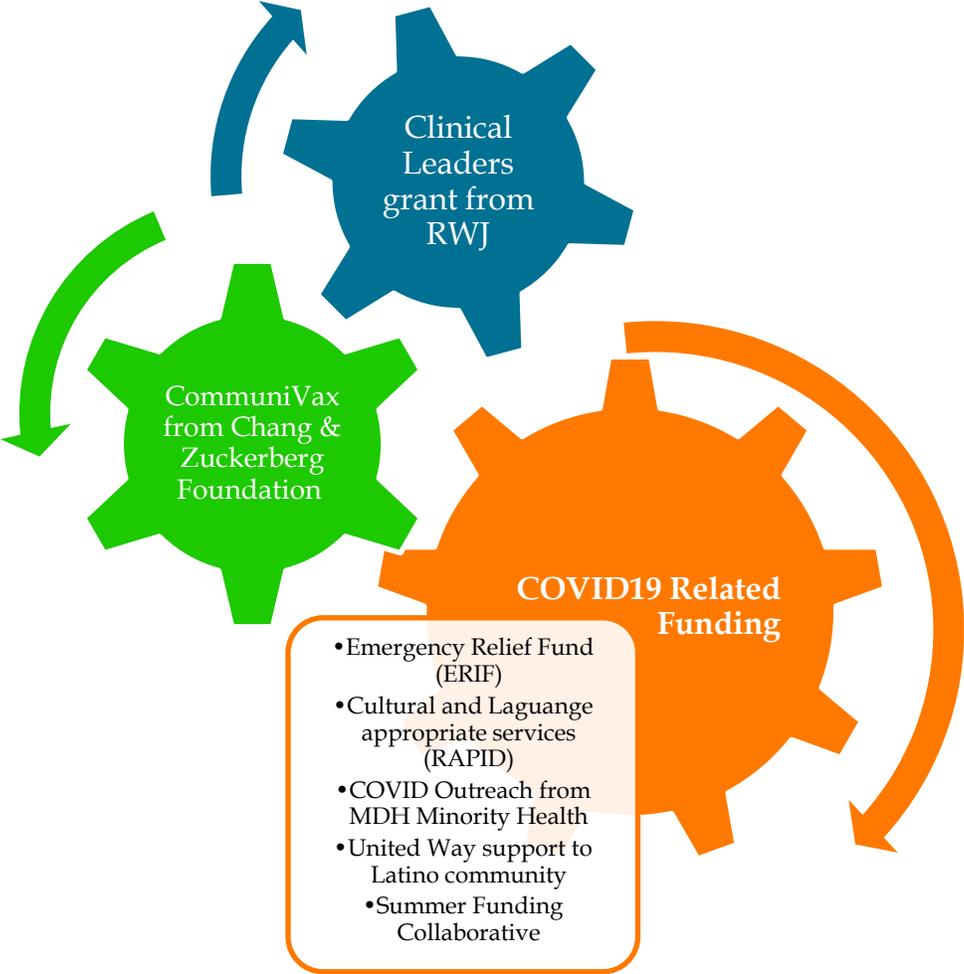


Accomplishments

Outreach and grants



Centro SOL was involved or received new grants in 2020 to sponsor seven new projects, while we worked on existing projects , the image below depicts areas funded:



Awards

Lucia Islas- *Latino Providers Network Annual Community Service Award, The Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Award "The Delfina Haydee Pereda Echeverria Award*

Dr. Angela Orozco- *Hispanic Heritage Achievers Award*

Monica Guerrero Vazquez- *Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Awards to Service Provider Award*

Alejandra Flores-Miller- *Hispanic Heritage Month Achievers Award*

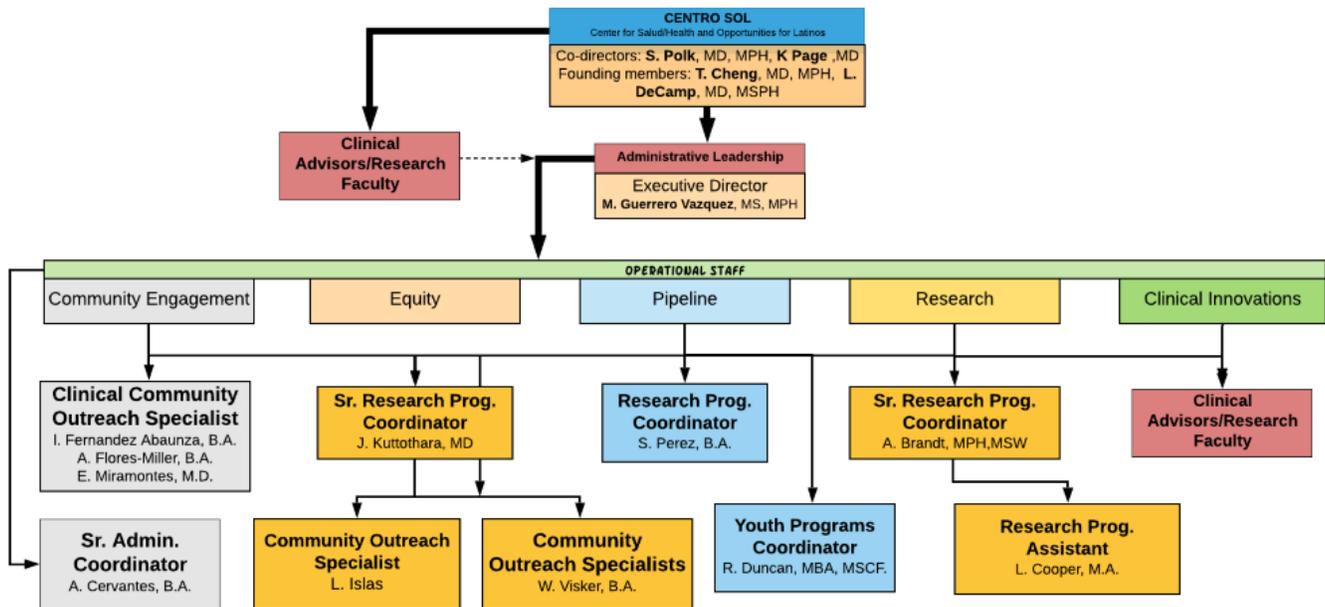
Publications



Our Team

In recent years, Centro SOL has grown from being composed of a steering committee and a program coordinator to a team of passionate and qualified individuals who are committed to serving the Latinx community in all four of our core areas and improve the health and wellbeing of the community. Through the combination of large, awarded grants, and smaller grants, Centro SOL has been able to support a larger staff and a multitude of projects that aim to advance our mission. Since last year, our projects have expanded in scope and the staff has grown to reflect this need for talent. A new research program coordinator joined the team as well as one community outreach specialists. With this team, and the grants we have received, we are well equipped to enter next year prepared for the work required to support and empower our community.

Organizational Chart



Faculty/Affiliate Faculty & Staff

Faculty/Affiliate Faculty	
Alicia Arbaje, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor	
Angela Orozco, MD Assistant Professor	
Carmen Alvarez, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor	
Daniela Rodriguez, DrPH, Associate Scientist	
Kathleen Page, MD Associate Professor, co-Director	
Rachel Thornton, MD, PhD, Associate Professor	
Rheanna Platt, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor	
Sarah Polk, MD, ScM Assistant Professor, co-Director	
Suzanne Grieb, PhD, Assistant Professor	
Tania Caballero, MD, MHS, Assistant Professor	
Tina Cheng, MD, MPH, Professor of Pediatrics	
Staff/Affiliate Staff	
Alejandra Flores-Miller, BA Sr. Community Outreach Specialist	Lindsay Cooper, MA Research Program Coordinator
Amelia Brandt, MPH, PhD Sr. Research Program Coordinator	Lucia Islas, Community Outreach Specialist
Ana Cervantes, BA Sr. Administrative Coordinator	Monica Guerrero Vazquez, MS, MPH Executive Director
Estefania Miramontes, MD Community Outreach Specialist	Rachel Duncan, MBA, Youth Pipeline Program Coordinator
Isabel Fernandez Abaunza, BA Community Outreach Specialist	Stephanie Perez, BA Research Program Coordinator
Joanna Kuttothara, MD Sr. Research Program Coordinator	Whitney Visker, BA Community Outreach Specialist

Acknowledgements

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Aaron and Lillie Straus Foundation
Baltimore City and State of Maryland Health Departments
Baltimore Community Foundation
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France-Merrick Foundation
Johns Hopkins Alliance for a Healthier World
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security / Chang & Zuckerberg Foundation
Johns Hopkins Institute for Clinical and Translational Research
Johns Hopkins Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health
Leonard & Helen R. Stulman Charitable Foundation
Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs
Planned Parenthood
Summer Funding Collaborative

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