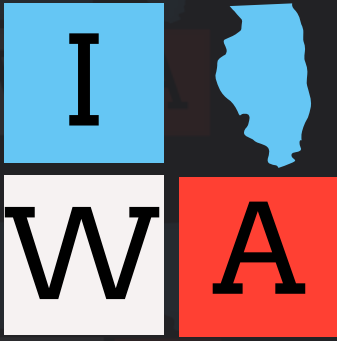


ILLINOIS WORKERS IN ACTION



TRABAJADORES DE ILLINOIS EN ACCIÓN

# IMPACT REPORT

2022

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	History and Mission	8	Community Engagement
2	Our Team	9	Labor Cases Submitted
3	Programs	10	Thank you!
4	Labor Cases Submitted		
5	IWA COVID-19 Response		
6	Partners & Funders		
7A	Photo Gallery		
7B	Events		

# OUR STORY

Illinois Workers in Action was founded in January 2021 by co-founders Giselle Rodriguez and Michael Whitley.

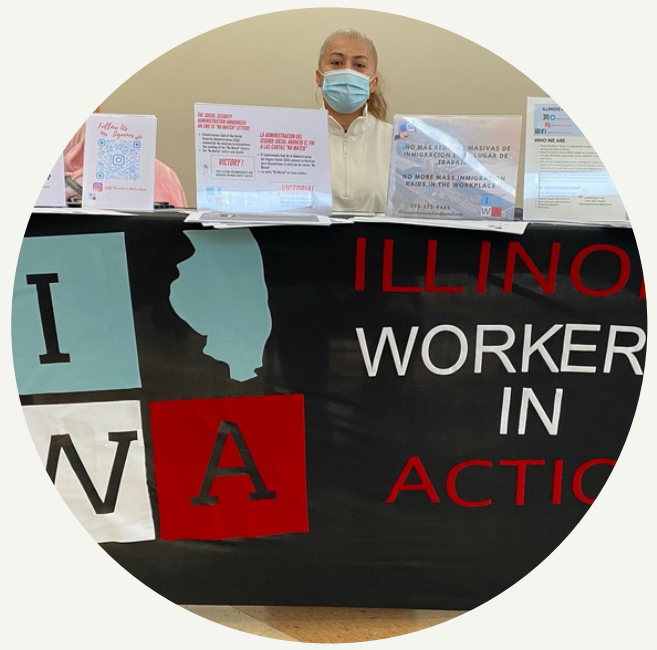
Illinois Workers in Action (IWA) is a 501C3 nonprofit organization and covers the state of Illinois.

The organization was formed to create change in the workplace for all workers regardless of their type of employment. IWA wants to make sure that everyone has the necessary tools to succeed in their workplace.

There are a lot of employers/companies that take advantage of employees and are left in vulnerable situations as they have not had the opportunity to learn their rights and how to organize.

The organization's impact goes beyond educating and supporting workers

IWA is committed to solidifying and uniting the Latinx and Black community. With the work the organization does, it demonstrates both groups that it is imperative to work together as both face injustices in their workplace. Having training and conversations around racial justice and how both groups are affected in the workplace has helped workers understand that they must work together for a common goal.



## OUR MISSION

Illinois Workers in Action's (IWA) mission is to empower workers through education, organizing, policy, solidarity, worker power, and rights. IWA strives to build worker power in immigrant, Latinx, and black communities by working to advance systemic change that promotes racial and social justice and stabilizes low-income immigrants and communities of color.

IWA provides these services free of charge and without regard to immigration status.

# OUR TEAM

We thank our team for their amazing work and dedication for continuing the work!



Executive Director

**GISELLE RODRIGUEZ**

[grodriquez@illinosworkersinaction.org](mailto:grodriquez@illinosworkersinaction.org)



Community Health and Labor Organizer

**MICHAEL WHITLEY**

[mwhitley@illinosworkersinaction.org](mailto:mwhitley@illinosworkersinaction.org)



Labor Rights Consultant

**GERARDO GARCIA**

[ggarcia@illinosworkersinaction.org](mailto:ggarcia@illinosworkersinaction.org)



Community Engagement Coordinator

**CECILIA JACOBO**

[cjacobob@illinosworkersinaction.org](mailto:cjacobob@illinosworkersinaction.org)



# PROGRAMS

## Labor Rights Education

Illinois Workers in Action (IWA) provides Labor Rights Education to workers around the Chicagoland area and suburbs through a series of virtual trainings for workers on workers' rights, COVID19 safety, and technology 101.

Labor cases include:

- Wage theft/Non-payment of wages
- Break and Meal violations
- Gender-Based discrimination
- Race and color discrimination
- Sexual Harassment
- Work Injury

## Leadership & Advocacy

IWA supports different local and federal campaigns such as the Federal campaign for OSHA on worker protections against COVID19 and Citizenship for All.

## Immigration

IWA provides referrals to immigration attorneys and Know Your Rights trainings to help community members know their rights as workers regardless of citizenship status when interacting with law enforcement, ICE, or CBP. IWA also sits at the Immigrant Worker Advocacy Table where, at a national level, we discuss issues affecting immigrant workers and solutions.

## Public Health & Community Resources

IWA participates in the following areas of public health: food nutrition, COVID19, and connecting workers with resources based on their needs. As a recipient of the "Vaccine Community Mobilization Grant Fund" IWA provided trainings to workers on COVID19 safety guidelines, a hotline to report workplaces that weren't following these guidelines, and distributed PPE.

# LABOR CASES

## ARE YOU EXPERIENCING?

- Wage theft/Non-payment of wages
- Break and Meal violations
- Gender-Based discrimination
- Race and color discrimination
- Sexual Harassment
- Work Injury



# COVID-19 RESPONSE

During the initial stages of the pandemic, IWA provided PPE giveaways to workers that included: masks, hand sanitizer, face shields, gloves and informational flyers.

**IWA hosted various COVID19 Workplace certificate trainings where workers learned how to:**

- Assess risk factors for work-related exposure to COVID19
- Define protective measures employers should implement applicable to their industry
- Understand workers rights to a safe and healthful workplace
- Identify methods to prevent and respond to COVID19 exposure in the workplace
- Review strategies for protecting mental health during the crisis

Additionally, IWA created a hotline to aid workers on reporting workplaces that were not complying with required state COVID19 workplace safety guidelines, report a possible COVID19 outbreak, or if you have a concern that your workplace is not following public health rules regarding face coverings and/or capacity limits.



**COVID-19 WORKPLACE CERTIFICATE TRAINING**

**DATE**  
Monday, April 26 at 6 PM CT. (Virtual)

**TRAINING OVERVIEW**

- Assess risk factors for work-related exposure to COVID-19.
- Define protective measures employers should implement applicable to their industry.
- Understand workers rights to a safe and healthy workplace.
- Identify methods to prevent and respond to COVID-19 exposure in the workplace
- Review strategies for protecting mental health during the crisis.

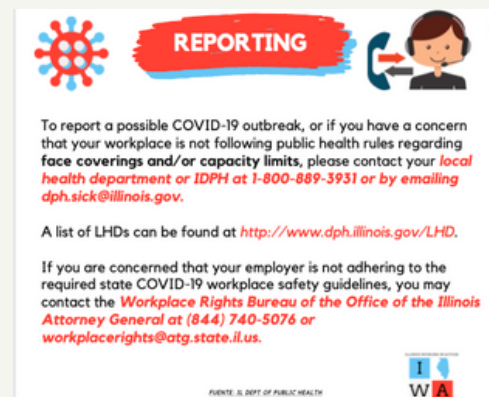
**TRAINING CERTIFICATE**  
Participants will receive a certificate upon training completion.

**REGISTER**  
[QR Code]  
(Open your camera)

**CONTACT US:**  
773-373-9466  
disasterworkcerttraining@gmail.com

**LWSC**  
Labor Workers Service Center  
Midwestern Labor Union

**IWA**  
ILLINOIS WORKERS ALLIANCE



**REPORTING**

To report a possible COVID-19 outbreak, or if you have a concern that your workplace is not following public health rules regarding **face coverings and/or capacity limits**, please contact your **local health department or IDPH at 1-800-889-3931 or by emailing [dph.sick@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.sick@illinois.gov)**.

A list of LHDs can be found at <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/LHD>.

If you are concerned that your employer is not adhering to the required state COVID-19 workplace safety guidelines, you may contact the **Workplace Rights Bureau of the Office of the Illinois Attorney General at (844) 740-5076 or [workplacerights@atg.state.il.us](mailto:workplacerights@atg.state.il.us)**.

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**IWA**



**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**IDPH**  
PROTECTING HEALTH. PROMOTING LIFE.

*Certificate of Recognition*

Governor JB Pritzker and Illinois Department of Public Health proudly present this certificate to

**ILLINOIS COVID-19 AMBASSADOR**

**Giselle Rodriguez**

In recognition of your efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by promoting and sharing critical information and resources thereby keeping communities across Illinois safe during these challenging times.

**JB Pritzker**  
Illinois Governor

**Ngozi O. Ezike, M.D.**  
Director  
Illinois Department of Public Health

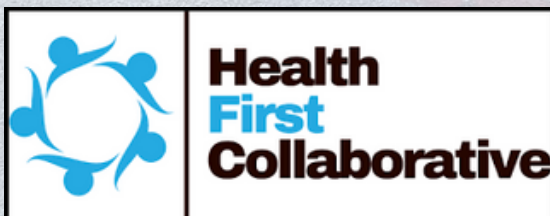


# PARTNERS & CAMPAIGNS



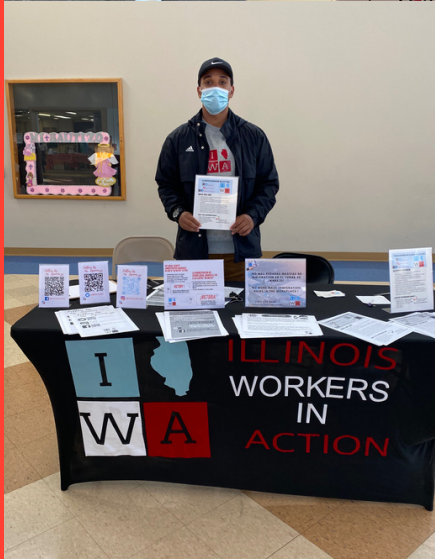
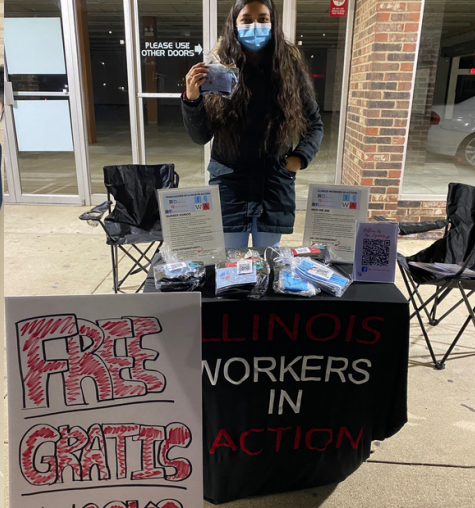
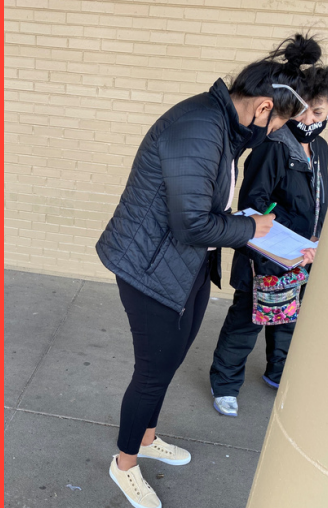
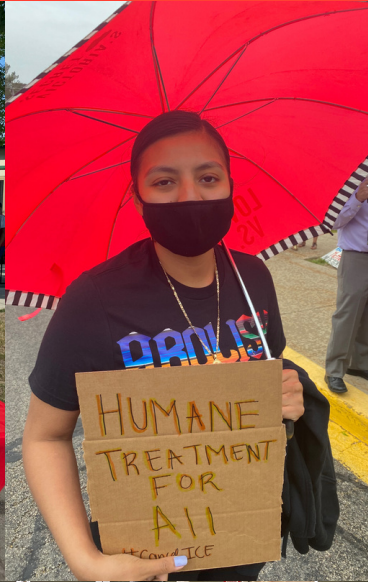
## FUNDERS

Illinois Workers in Action thanks all of our funders,  
for there continued support .





# PHOTO GALLERY





# EVENTS

## ALIANZA AMERICAS 2022 LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1,050

Annual Calls

OVER 5,000

Workers reached through community education

323

Walk-ins

12

Community  
Trainings

4

Back to school  
bash

OVER \$15,500

Recovered in wage theft cases

# LABOR CASES SUBMITTED

25

Department of Labor

12

Work Accident/Injuries

12

Department of Human  
Rights

15

National Labor Relations  
Board (NLRB)



# WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN OUR PROGRAMS



**DONATE**

[paypal.me/ILWorkersInAction](https://paypal.me/ILWorkersInAction)



**Follow us on social media and check out our new website!**

 [@ILWorkersInAction](https://www.facebook.com/ILWorkersInAction)

 [@ILWorkersInAction](https://www.instagram.com/ILWorkersInAction)

 [@ILlinoisAction](https://twitter.com/ILlinoisAction)

 773-373-9466

 [info@illinoisworkersinaction.org](mailto:info@illinoisworkersinaction.org)



**WORKERS.**  
**TRABAJADORES.**

ILLINOIS WORKERS IN ACTION



TRABAJADORES DE ILLINOIS EN ACCIÓN

**POWER.**  
**PODER.**

**ACTION.**  
**ACCIÓN**

**ILLINOIS WORKERS IN ACTION**