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Winter, 2024



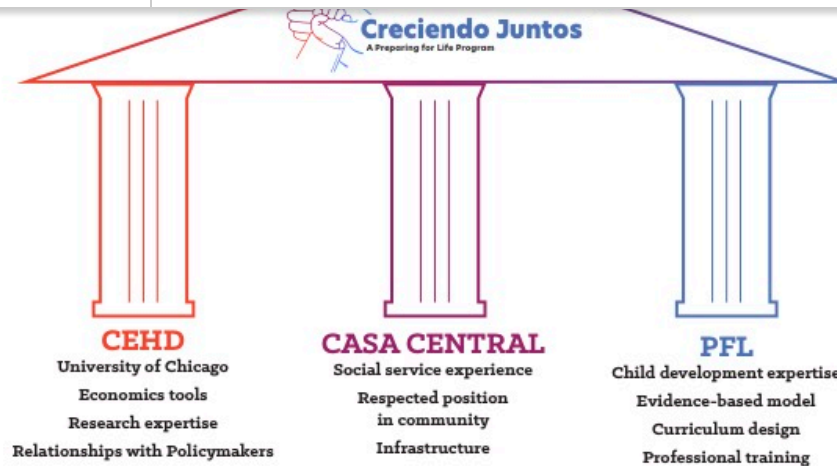
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## What is Creciendo Juntos?

Creciendo Juntos, formerly known as the Chicago Home Visiting Partnership Project (CHVPP) is an early childhood home visiting program created in mid-2021 at [the Center for the Economics of Human Development](#) (CEHD) with the understanding that specific knowledge partners would be necessary to create a unique research study. [Preparing for Life](#) (PFL)—an evidence-based home visiting model from Ireland—and [Casa Central](#), an organization that has been strengthening communities and transforming lives in Chicago's West Side neighborhoods since 1954, were engaged in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

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## Project Updates

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## Pilot Recruitment

We're excited to announce that recruitment is now open for expecting mothers to participate in our pilot study! As we prepare for the formal RCT, we're looking to connect with 10 to 15 pregnant mothers in the 60609 and 60632 zip codes. This is a unique opportunity to be part of the early stages of our program and help shape the future of family support services in your community.



If you or someone you know fits the criteria and is interested in joining us, we'd love to hear from you. Your involvement could make a significant difference in our work and the lives of families. Reach out to [creciendojuntoslv@gmail.com](mailto:creciendojuntoslv@gmail.com).

## Kumar Conference

In November, our Creciendo Juntos team participated in the fourth Rohit and Harvanit Kumar Conference on Early Childhood Development. This gathering brought together scholars from diverse fields, showcasing innovative research

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making a meaningful difference in the families we support.



Pictured (from left to right): Dr. Orla Doyle, Alison Baulos, and Rebecca Harles

Members of the Creciendo Juntos team presented some of our work at the Kumar Conference's poster session. The poster, titled: Creciendo Juntos: A Parenting-Focused Approach to Home Visiting and Evaluation in Chicago, highlighted research developments and our unique approach to supporting parents through coaching and mentoring.



Alison Baulos presenting at the Kumar Conference in November.

**Alison Baulos**, Executive Director of CEHD, delivered an impactful presentation on the economics of child development. Her insights at the

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## We Want to Hear From You!

When designing this new project, our team asks ourselves new questions all the time. We would love to hear from you - the experts - on some of our most pressing questions.

**This week's question:**

### What recruiting strategies do you find are most successful?

- A. Community Partnerships
- B. Social Media Campaigns
- C. Word of Mouth
- D. Local Events
- E. Flyers and Posters
- F. Direct Mail
- G. School Outreach
- H. Community Leaders and Influencers
- I. Local Media

Poll results will be published in the next newsletter.

[Take the Poll](#)

## Team Member Spotlight



Meet **Maritza Rivera**, a dedicated home visitor who joined the Creciendo Juntos team last June. Maritza has played a crucial role in culturally adapting our program, including translating the original PFL curriculum into Spanish to better serve our community. Now, she's at the forefront of recruiting families for our exciting pilot phase.

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program; it's an innovative approach where families and home visitors take center stage. We prioritize building strong connections with families, ensuring they feel heard and supported every step of the way. As home visitors, we undergo specialized training to attune to the needs of parents and children, fostering empathy and mindfulness in our interactions. By being attuned to each family's unique circumstances, we empower them to build on their knowledge and skills. To create environments that allow children, families, and communities to thrive.”

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## Resources for Advocates

The Creciendo Juntos teams have found this manual, [Why Am I Always Being Researched](#) published by **Chicago Beyond** to be helpful as we design our project. It lays out considerations for researchers, practitioners, and funders engaged in research on groups who are frequently studied.

Have you used this manual? What are your thoughts? Share with us here: [cehdhomevisiting@uchicago.edu](mailto:cehdhomevisiting@uchicago.edu).

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## Fun Facts!

- Taste Buds: Newborns have a preference for sweet tastes from birth. This might explain why breast milk is slightly sweet.
- Language Explosion: Between the ages of 18 and 24 months, toddlers usually experience a "language explosion," rapidly learning and using several new words every day.

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## Helpful Links

- [Creciendo Juntos Home page](#)
- [Link to Video](#)
- [Press Release](#)

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- [Center for the Economics of Human Development Website](#)

**The Center for the Economics of Human Development** explores the circumstances under which people develop the skills to thrive and achieve their fullest potential. The Center’s research program seeks a thorough empirical understanding of human flourishing to equip policymakers with evidence to reduce inequality by promoting opportunity.

**Preparing for Life** is an early intervention program designed to support parents and children at each stage of development from conception to the day they start school. Based in North Dublin, PFL works in partnership with parents to provide a comprehensive set of evidence-based services including home visiting.

**Casa Central** is one of the largest Latino social service agencies in the Midwest. Since 1954, Casa Central has delivered evidenced-based, award-winning programming in response to the needs of the Latino community.



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