

PROMOTING WORKER'S HEALTH: GREATER LAWNDALE LOTERÍA GAME

HEALTH IS A HUMAN RIGHT:
ACHIEVING HEALTH EQUITY

Home

Introduction

Data and Why We Need It

Communities in Action

Equitable Housing and Transportation

Access to Food

Faith-Based Organizations

Why Education Matters to Health

Environmental Justice as a Health Equity Issue

The Right for a Safe Workplace

- Nail Salon Workers
 - Non-Toxic Tools
 - Training Others
- **Greater Lawndale Lotería Game**
- Mexican Immigrant Workers
- Teaching Job Safety

Health Equity and Violence Prevention

Advancing Maternal Health

The Road to Health Equity

Conclusion

Featured Organizations

7



Card 7 - The Church

Greater Lawndale, including North Lawndale and Little Village, are communities on the southwest side of Chicago, Illinois. Little Village has one of the largest foreign-born Mexican populations in Chicago and more than 80% of its residents are of Mexican descent. Nearly 90% of the residents of North Lawndale identify as Black, but the neighborhood includes a significant Mexican-American population. Both communities' median household income is significantly lower than the Chicago median income of \$55,703.

[Teaching Resources](#)[About This Exhibition](#)

Many of Greater Lawndale's citizens work in low-wage jobs, including in industries such as food and hotel service, construction, and manufacturing; as temporary workers; or in the informal labor market, including as street vendors or gig workers. Although workers make valuable contributions to the workplace and community, many report that they are exposed to unjust working conditions and systematic exploitation.

The Greater Lawndale Lotería is a community-based solution to inform workers about their rights and to promote worker's health. The game is a collaboration between community partners and the University of Illinois Chicago's Greater Lawndale Health Work Project—inspired by the work of community activist and public health professional Dolores Castañeda.



Playing the lotería games with Little Village Chamber of Commerce affiliates and small business owners

Courtesy of Greater Lawndale Work Project, University of Illinois Chicago Public Health Center for Healthy Work

How the Greater Lawndale Lotería Game Was Developed

Lotería, the Spanish word for lottery, is a game of chance that is played throughout Latin America and throughout the U.S., particularly in Mexican communities. Similar to bingo, board card numbers are replaced by illustrations. Variations of lotería are always evolving, so using the game as a tool to educate workers about job safety and worker rights is in the spirit of the game.

Launched in 2019, the Greater Lawndale Healthy Work Project (GLHWP) used surveys, concept mapping, focus groups, and secondary data analysis to understand how work affects health, to define what healthy and dangerous work looks like, and to help the development of its community initiatives. Through surveys with 500 people from Greater Lawndale, GLHWP learned that 70% of respondents did not have any health benefits and 78% did not get paid if they missed a day of work.

These data helped decide the content of the game, which was piloted and evaluated in several neighborhood settings. The findings showed that this educational game helped to facilitate hard conversations about unhealthy work and raised awareness among workers.

The lotería game includes 54 illustrated cards by Ronica Hicks, a North Lawndale artist, and an instructional booklet by Theodora Salazar, a Little Village artist. Because the project advocates for worker justice and community health at the neighborhood level, most cards reflect low wage jobs with unjust working conditions commonly found in Greater Lawndale. Workplaces and neighborhood landmarks are also depicted.

The backs of the cards include educational narratives that discuss safety issues, the history of the Chicago labor movement, and “know your rights” information.

For this exhibition, the Greater Lawndale Healthy Work Council chose three lotería cards—street vendor, temp worker, and community health worker—as representative of both Little Village and North Lawndale communities. The Council also noted that the narratives are rich with evidence-based findings and highlight local advocacy efforts.



Greater Lawndale Lotería Game Poster
Courtesy of Greater Lawndale Work Project, University of Illinois Chicago Public Health Center for Healthy Work

Play the Greater Lawndale Lotería At Home!

[Print Your Own Lotería Game Set Here](#)

[← Training Others](#)

[The Right for a Safe Workplace](#)
Greater Lawndale Lotería Game

[Mexican Immigrant Workers](#) →