



Celena Roldan Sarillo, M.S.W., M.Ed.

Celena Sarillo serves as the CEO of the Illinois Region of the Red Cross after joining the American Red Cross in March of 2016. The Illinois Region of the Red Cross is the second largest region of the Red Cross, with an annual budget of approximately \$24M, covering 88 counties and more than 3500 dedicated volunteers. Sarillo has served in various leadership roles supporting the national office of the American Red Cross, including serving as an elected official liaison deployed to engage elected officials in disaster impacted areas, and as one of the founders of the American Red Cross Latino Engagement Initiative.

Prior to joining Red Cross, Sarillo served as the Executive Director of Erie Neighborhood House, which was founded to strengthen low-income, primarily Latino families through skill-building, access to critical resources, advocacy, and collaborative action.

Sarillo has extensive and significant community development experience at both the city and the state level. In 2018, Sarillo served as a co-chair for the City of Chicago Universal Basic Income Task Force. She also served on Mayor Rahm Emanuel's Education Transition Team and the Mayor's Early Childhood Task Force as well as Governor Quinn's Illinois Human Services Commission. Sarillo was also appointed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel to the City of Chicago's Community Development Commission in 2014.

In 2011, Sarillo was a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow, participating in an intensive leadership training and partnership-building program that examines key issues facing the Chicago metropolitan area. In 2015, she participated in the German Marshall Memorial Fellowship, a month-long leadership development program in Europe focused on supporting and fostering the transatlantic relationship between the U.S. and Europe, sponsored by the German Marshall Fund of the United States. She was selected as a Fellow in the 2017 CEO *Perspectives* program, a nationally recognized program that fosters and accelerates business leadership development.

Currently, Sarillo serves as a board member for National Louis University and the Chicago Network, a network of Chicago's women leaders. In 2019, she was named to the board of

directors for Wintrust Wealth Management and was elected to The Robert R. McCormick Foundation Board.

Most recently, Sarillo was recognized by the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work as their 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient. Sarillo was also named as one of Chicago's "Most Powerful Latinos," on the 2019 inaugural list compiled by Crain's Chicago Business. Sarillo was also named by the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago as the 2016 Community Leader of the Year for her work in communities and the nonprofit sector.

Sarillo holds a master's degree in early childhood administration from National Louis University, as well as master's and bachelor's degrees in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She lives in Chicago with her husband and has a son at Saint Louis University.