



Chicano Latino Affairs Council

Biennium Report

For Fiscal Year 2001-2002

November 2002

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Chicano Latino Affairs Council

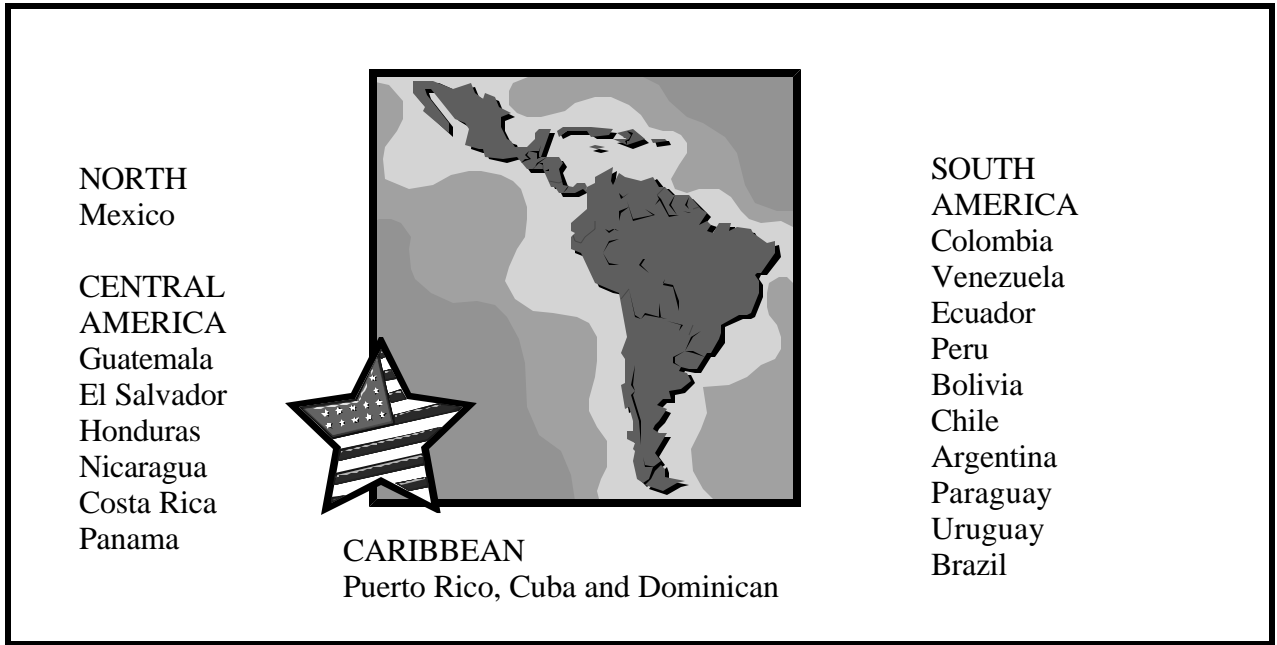


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Being Responsible for Our Future

The staff of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council and myself are very pleased to present our Biennial Report for the Fiscal Year 2001-2002. In this report, we provide a brief description of the many activities, programs, projects and objectives that we have embarked during the last two years. A lot of hard work has made it possible for the Chicano Latino Affairs Council to accomplish many goals on behalf of the Chicano Latinos that reside in or come to work in Minnesota. While we are satisfied of all the work that was done, we are also aware that a lot of work needs to be done to solve the many issues that confront the Chicano Latino population. This report also provides some information as to what those issues are.

The last U.S. Census (2000) shows that the Chicano Latino population is the ethnic group with the highest growth in the United States and in Minnesota. Now, more than ever, the Chicano Latino Affairs Council needs to be present and bring the voice of Chicano Latinos whenever the well being and future of this community are at stake. We will continue to bring, not only the perspective of our community and the particular issues that we confront, but also propose solutions to address those concerns.

These past two years, the Chicano Latino Affairs Council staff has partnered with other government agencies, many community based organizations and individuals to achieve its goals. We have worked hard in bringing the Chicano Latino voice and perspective regarding issues of great importance to our community, such as, education, economic development, immigration, welfare reform, lack of adequate housing, racial profiling and human rights, among many others. In addition, we fulfill our mandate to provide information and assistance to government agencies and legislators in order to better serve the Chicano Latino community.

The Chicano Latinos in Minnesota have made great progress in achieving self sufficiency and economic progress. We must ensure that the issues that remain are addressed so the future of the Chicano Latino community in Minnesota grows brighter every day.

American poet Josiah Gilbert Holland once said, "Responsibility walks hand in hand with capacity and power." As a community, we Latinos need to be responsible for our future. State government needs to provide the basic tools that will allow us to achieve the political equality and the capacity to help us build a better future as productive members of this society. The staff of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council and myself look forward to another biennium of working with the community, the state government and all other stakeholders to achieve that goal.

Ytmar Santiago
Executive Director

This report summarizes the activities of the State of Minnesota Council on Chicano Latino Affairs (hereinafter CLAC) since its last biennium report. It lists all receipts and expenditures, identifies major issues confronting the Chicano Latinos in the state and lists the specific objectives which the CLAC seeks to attain during the next biennium.

The CLAC is a statewide government agency created by the legislature in 1978. The primary mission of the CLAC is to advise the governor and the state legislature on the issues of importance to Minnesota's Chicano Latino community. In addition, the CLAC serves as a liaison between local, state and federal government and Minnesota's Chicano Latino community.

The CLAC is required to serve as an information and referral agency to ensure that Chicano Latinos in Minnesota are connected to the appropriate government agencies and community based organizations to address their concerns, which range from immigration and education to discrimination and social well being.

The enabling statute also requires that the CLAC educate legislators, agency heads, the media and the general public about the accomplishments and contributions of Chicano Latinos and raises general awareness about the problems and issues faced by this community.

The CLAC has the duty to publish the accomplishments of Chicano Latinos in Minnesota as well as be a resource for community based organizations that work with the Chicano Latino population. To that effect, the CLAC publishes a monthly newsletter in Spanish and English titled "Al Dia" which has statewide distribution and not only reports on the accomplishments of the Chicano Latinos, but serves as an informational conduit for the community. The CLAC also publishes and disseminates a bilingual directory which is a resource book for the community containing information about all the organizations, businesses, churches, media and networking groups that are either owned by, or serve, Minnesota's Chicano Latino population.

The CLAC consists of a fifteen member board of directors, eleven of which are members of the Chicano Latino community, two are Senators and two are State House Representatives. Of the eleven community members, there is a representative for each of the state's eight congressional districts and three At Large community representatives.

All community board members are appointed by the governor of Minnesota and they provide a voice in all levels of government for the 144,000 Chicano Latinos who reside in the state of Minnesota as well between 15,000 to 30,000** migrant agricultural workers that come to work in the state each year from the months of March through November.

*Note: The terms Chicano Latino, Latino and Hispanic are used interchangeably throughout this document. They all refer to people of Mexican and Latin American heritage.

** "The Migrant Community in Minnesota", Urban Coalition report.; and U.S. Department of Labor figures 1999.

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council Board of Directors' consist of eleven community members, two state representatives and two state senators. The community representatives reflect the state's 8 congressional districts. There are three at-large members. Members elect their officers every year. The current members of the board are:

Heladio F. Zavala — At Large

Mr. Zavala is the State Director for United Migrant Opportunity Services in Saint Cloud, MN.

Rick Johnson—At Large

Mr. Johnson is Consumer Insights Manager at General Mills Corporation, Minneapolis, MN.

Osvaldo Raimondo-Franco— At Large

Mr. Franco works as a private consultant in Minnetonka, MN.

M. Vicki Olivo—District 1

Ms. Olivo is an Enforcement Officer and Hispanic Community Liaison Officer with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, St. Paul, MN.

Elia Bruggeman—District 2

Ms. Bruggeman is the school principal for the Sleepy Eye High School, Sleepy Eye, MN.

Luis Bartolomei, Esq. —District 3

Mr. Bartolomei is professor of law at William Mitchell School of Law, St. Paul, MN.

Xavier Escobedo—District 4

Mr. Escobedo works for the Minnesota Department of Labor as Community Service Representative in St. Paul, MN.

Oliver Zaragoza—District 5

Mr. Zaragoza is a postal carrier with the United States Postal Service in Minneapolis, MN.

Sally Anaya-Boyer — District 6

Mrs. Anaya-Boyer is Vice-President at Associated Bank, Minneapolis, MN.

Ruben Mendez—District 7

Mr. Mendez is a locomotive engineer at the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroad in Hawley, MN.

Ricardo Acevedo—District 8

Mr. Acevedo is Assistant District Manager, Social Security Administration, Duluth, MN.

House Representative Al Juhnke, District 15A (DFL)

Representative Juhnke, (Willmar, MN) is one of the two House Representatives appointed to the board.

House Representative Bob Gunther, District 26A (R)

Representative Gunther (Fairmont, MN) is one of the two House Representatives appointed to the board.

Senator Grace Schwab, District 27. (R)

Senator Schwab (Albert Lea, MN) is one of two Senators appointed to serve on our board.

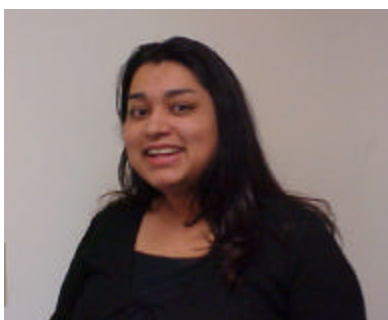
Senator Chuck Fowler, District 26 (DFL)

Minnesota Statutes, Section 3.9223, (see Appendix, for complete statute) mandates that the CLAC not only fulfills its primary mission of advising to the governor and the legislature on issues that affect the Chicano Latino community, including the unique problems encountered by the Spanish-speaking migratory workers, but that it also:

- Review and make recommendations to the governor and the legislature as to statutes or rules necessary to ensure that Chicano Latinos are well served in the state;
- Recommend legislation to improve the economic and social status of Chicano Latinos in the state;
- Serve as a conduit for state government agencies that serve the Chicano Latino people;
- Conduct and oversee the performance of studies designed to accurately depict the situation of Chicano Latinos in the state with the goal of suggesting solutions to those issues, especially in the areas of education, housing, economic development, health, human rights, social welfare and related matters;
- Implement programs designed to solve the problems of Chicano Latinos when authorized to do so by statute, rule or order.

The CLAC staff work hard to assist in the fulfillment of the legislative mandate and reach out throughout all the state of Minnesota and its ever growing Chicano Latino population. The staff consists of an Executive Director who oversees the operations of the agency and is hired by the Board of Directors and professional and support staff hired and supervised by the Executive Director. Currently, the CLAC has the following staff:

Administrative Assistant Nora Burgos is in charge of financial oversight in conjunction with the Department of Administration Financial Management and Reporting staff. She also verifies payments and that goods and services have been received before the Executive Director authorizes payments. Nora ensures that all financial transactions are accurately reported and in accordance with state law, policies and procedures. She also provides backup clerical services and support for the Executive Director and the Management Analyst.



Office Specialist Gladys Zelaya is the council's webmaster. She updates and maintains the council's website as well as the links and electronic communications with community members. She also is in charge of purchasing and maintaining all office supplies and inventory. Gladys performs the functions of receptionist and performs general clerical duties. She is the primary support staff for the Executive Director and the Management Analyst. She designs all desktop publishing for the council, including the "Al Dia" newsletter, the Bilingual Directory, all brochures and reports.

Management Analyst Mario Hernandez works with state agencies, community organizations and local governments to bring the Latino perspective to their rulemaking and operations through the use of data and population needs versus population statistics. He also updates our Latino Web



A Demographic Look at Latinos in Minnesota

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of the dream” (Eleanor

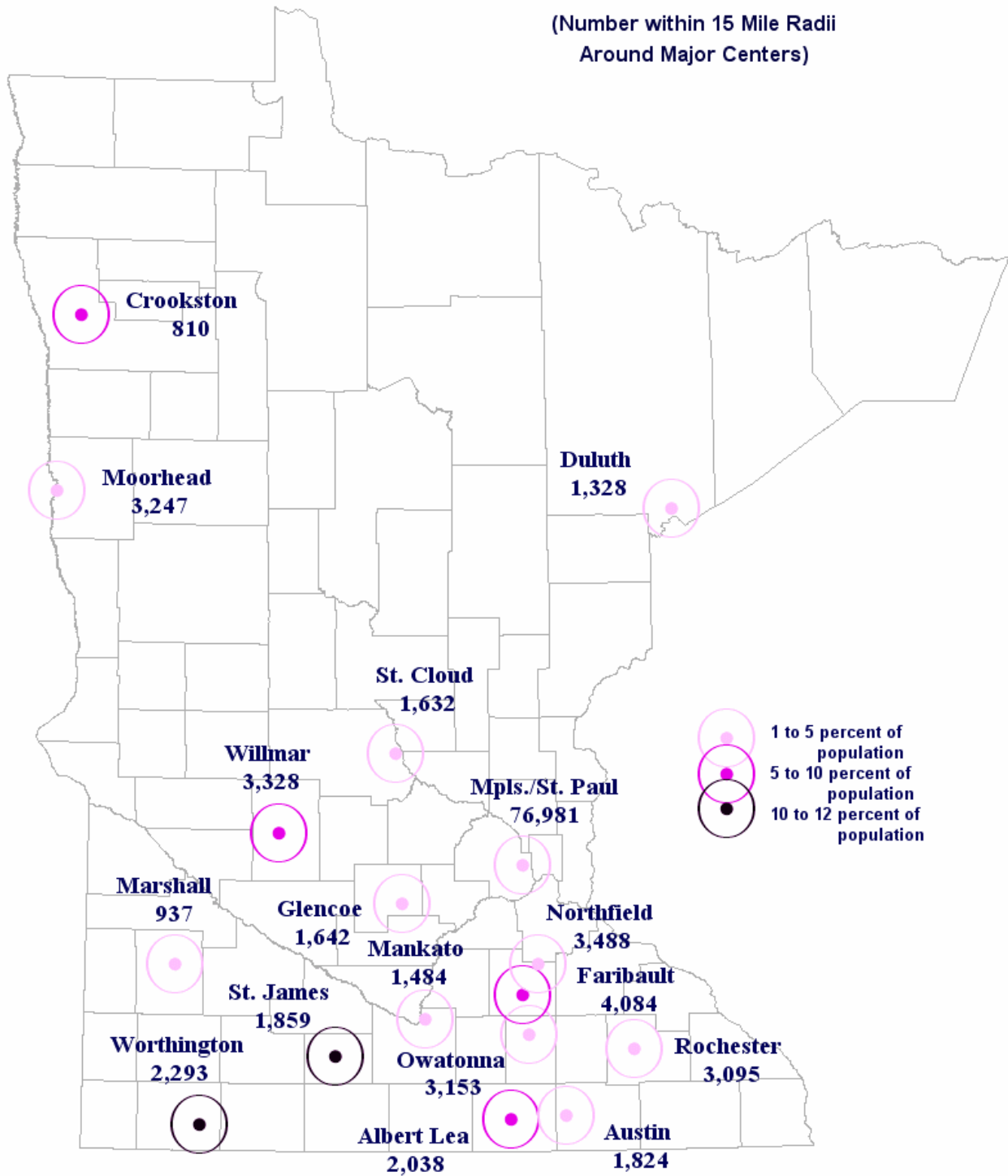
A Demographic Look at Latinos in Minnesota

Latinos have lived in Minnesota since the late 1880's. The 2000 U.S. Census listed approximately 144,000 people of Hispanic origin in Minnesota. In addition, every year, between 15,000 and 30,000 migrant workers travel to Minnesota to work in various industries. According to the Census Bureau, the top ten Minnesota cities with the largest Hispanic population are: Minneapolis, St. Paul, Willmar, Rochester, Bloomington, Worthington, Richfield, Brooklyn Park, West St. Paul, and Faribault. The graphs, table and state map that follow were created using 2000 Census data. We are grateful to

| | Number | Percent |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Hispanic- or Latino-origin | 143,382 | 100% |
| Mexican | 95,613 | 66.68% |
| Puerto Rican | 6,616 | 4.61% |
| Cuban | 2,527 | 1.76% |
| Dominican Republic | 477 | .33% |
| Central American: | 6,180 | 4.31% |
| Costa Rican | 347 | .24% |
| Guatemalan | 1,684 | 1.17% |
| Honduran | 925 | .65% |
| Nicaraguan | 376 | .26% |
| Panamanian | 491 | .34% |
| Salvadoran | 2,005 | 1.4% |
| Other Central American | 352 | .25% |
| South American: | 7,239 | 5.05% |
| Argentinean | 406 | .28% |
| Bolivian | 157 | .11% |
| Chilean | 499 | .35% |
| Colombian | 2,088 | 1.46% |
| Ecuadorian | 2,221 | 1.55% |
| Paraguayan | 197 | .14% |
| Peruvian | 812 | .57% |
| Uruguayan | 78 | .05% |
| Venezuelan | 470 | .33% |
| Other South American | 311 | .22% |
| Other Hispanic or Latino: | 24,730 | 17.25% |
| Spaniard | 471 | .33% |
| Spanish | 3,126 | 2.18% |
| Spanish American | 178 | .12% |
| All other Hispanic or Latino | 20,955 | 14.61% |
| | | |

Chicano/Latino Clusters

(Number within 15 Mile Radii
Around Major Centers)



Source: Census 2000 Summary File 1
Graphic by Minnesota Planning, State Demography Center

Summary of Activities Since Last Report

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined. (Henry David

Working Towards a Common Goal

Education

- One of the main goals during the last biennium has been to initiate the discussion and find solutions that would help increase the graduation rate for Latino youth in the state of Minnesota. The statistics reflect that Latino children in the state have the lowest graduation rate of all minority groups. On January 2002, the CLAC convened a meeting of legislators who represent areas with a high population of Latinos and the Center for Rural Policy, education professionals, superintendents and school administrators to discuss ways in which we can improve school retention and graduation rates of Latino youth. Out of that meeting, the Latino Graduation Working Group emerged. The group has met several times and had a best practices presentation by Ms. Elia Bruggeman, principal of the Sleepy Eye High School where Latino drop out rates have been reduced substantially.
- Last June, 2002, the CLAC partnered with Hamline University's Center for Excellence in Urban Teaching and, with assistance from Rep. Al Juhnke of Willmar, sponsored a program under the financial auspices of the Bremer Foundation to address the low graduation rate among our youth. The program consists on two separate modules, one that will address teachers and other members of the education profession in dealing with Latino children in school and another which is directed towards helping the parents assist both the school and their children towards achieving success in school. This excellent initiative is free for both the schools and the parents. It has already started in the Willmar school district, which is an area of the state that has a big concentration of Latino children enrolled in its schools. We hope that in the near future it can be expanded to include other school districts with a high concentration of Latino children, especially in rural Minnesota, where the support systems are not as strong as in the Twin Cities. The training will last between 40 weeks and two years depending on the school district, at the end of which Hamline University will make available a report that will show the progress of the children.
- The CLAC also continues to appear at career fairs to encourage the Latino youth to stay in school. On March 2001 we visited St. James, MN to participate in a career day event at the St. James Armstrong elementary school. On April 2001, we had a presentation for junior and senior Latino high school students at the Sleepy Eye High School.

Conference on Hispanics: "El Pueblo Hispano"

- In partnership with United Migrant Opportunity Services, the council developed and presented the first all-encompassing Hispanic conference in Minnesota. "El Pueblo Hispano" (in English, Our Hispanic Town) had the cooperation of several state agencies as well, including, U.S.Housing and Urban Development, the White House Initiative on Education, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Planning, Minnesota Department of Human Rights, Minnesota Department of Labor and Minnesota Department of Economic Security. This important conference brought experts in the fields of education, health, workforce development, migrant labor, housing, economic development, mental health, civil rights, social justice, immigration and philanthropy to discuss best practices that can help the Hispanic community in Minnesota succeed. The conference also stressed the positive aspects

Working Towards a Common Goal

Voter Education

- Always an important aspect of our development as a community and a step towards community integration in Minnesota, we did not forget the voter education initiative. During the months of August through November 2000 and again on 2002, the council partnered with the League of Minnesota Women Voters in their voter education and registration campaign. We also translated all informational materials to Spanish.
- This past September, 2002, we assisted the Minnesota Secretary of State in the translation of all the Voter Registration and Voter Instruction to Spanish. These will be available to assist voters whose main language is Spanish to better understand the election registration and voting instructions in the 2002 elections and other elections in the future.
- We co-sponsored a gubernatorial debate with the Jewish Community Relations Council on September 25, 2002. One of our board members was a volunteer during the debate. We also helped prepare some of the questions to be presented to the candidates so that they included issues that are of importance to our community.

Governor's Office

- We met with the Governor and his team and also with the First Lady of Minnesota when the Governor was planning his trade mission to Mexico on 2001. We also prepared a report for the Governor on Mexican culture and discussed with him and his team details of Mexico's cultural differences and political establishment.

Homeland Security

- We reviewed the homeland security plans suggested by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.
- In partnership with Ramsey County, we are working to improve the access to our community under the Ramsey County Homeland Security plan.

Attorney General's Racial Profiling Study

- Per request from the Minnesota Attorney General, we are part of the OAG's Racial Profiling Advisory Group. As part of the group, we meet regularly with the Attorney General, his Assistants and officers of the P.O.S.T. Board to discuss ways to improve the collection of the information regarding racial profiling as well as discuss the data as it is gathered.

Human Rights and Equal Employment Opportunities

- The council participates in a number of forums and activities where an awareness is created regarding the diversity of the state and the respect that each community is entitled to. We continue to assist the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions in forums held throughout the state to help communities adapt to the changing demographics.

Working Towards a Common Goal

Human Rights and Equal Employment Opportunities

- We work with the U. S. Office of Equal Employment Opportunities Commission to bring information to Latino communities in Greater Minnesota about their rights and responsibilities.
- We work closely with the U.S. Housing and Urban Development, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, the MN Department of Labor and Industry, OSHA and the Immigrant and Refugee Policy Coalition to bring information to Latinos both in the Metro area and Greater Minnesota about their rights and responsibilities.
- On January 2001, we started our active participation in the Farm Labor Coordinating Committee. This organization holds regular bimonthly meetings to discuss farm labor issues in Minnesota.

Other projects on behalf of the Chicano Latino Community

- Participated in the City of St. Paul Mayoral Summit on Cultural Relations.
- On July, 2002, participated in the Migrant Labor Representatives Annual Training.
- Also on July, 2002, discussed issues and solutions to combat domestic violence that affects Latinos.
- During 2001, participated in the driver's License Forum with the Department of Public Safety. We have worked closely with the staff at the Department to ensure that Latino issues are discussed when addressing security concerns regarding MN driver's licenses.

Additional statutory responsibilities

- We fulfilled our statutory mission of appointing board members to the Office of the Ombudsperson for Spanish Speaking Families.

Technology

- We worked with the MN Department of Administration to upgrade our network. With the assistance of the Governor's office, the Department of Finance and the Department of Administration's Office of Technology, we obtained a server and new equipment that enables us to have an updated website and to service our staff in accordance with government technological requirements.
- Our website, www.clac.state.mn.us, is bilingual (English and Spanish) and has sections that

Working towards a common goal

Rural Minnesota

- Due to budget constraints, this past bienium we were not been able to conduct Regional Forums. Nevertheless, we continue to participate in rural Minnesota activities and this past year one of our staff presented at the Minnesota Rural Partnership Conference.
- We continue to participate in meetings and activities in the areas of rural Minnesota that have a high concentration of Latinos like: Willmar, Owatonna, St. James, Mankato, and Moorhead., among others,
- One of our staff presented at the League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference. The title of the presentation was: Latinos in Rural Minnesota. We also are members of the League of Minnesota Cities Economic Development Committee as well as the Editorial Review Board.
- We are members of the Southeast MN Migrant and Affordable Housing Coalition. During the months of June and July of 2001 we have also attended informational meetings and briefings about the Latino community and Latino economic development in Owatonna, Austin, Faribault, Mankato, Montgomery, Waseca, Hutchinson, Monticello, Glencoe, Le Seur and Le Center.
- The many contacts we maintain in rural Minnesota help us counteract somewhat the effects of the budget cuts and have provided us with a snapshot of the situation of Latinos in the rural communities. In consequence, we find that, as each community develops, not all Latino communities in Minnesota have the same priorities. This appears to be partly due to regional differences and the issues the regions as a whole may be facing. Later in this report we will delineate those issues that are facing the Hispanic community as perceived by the community.

Migrant workers

- We continue to work hard in terms of gathering information about the particular issues that affect this segment of our population. Each year, at the start of the farming season, Minnesota is home to several thousand migratory farm workers of Hispanic origin who stay in the state at least until the end of the farming season. Some migratory workers even stay through the Winter when they can find temporary work. The needs of these Hispanics are very different from the needs of the Hispanic residents in Minnesota.
- Whenever possible, our staff assists farm workers and Latino migrant families during parent-teacher meetings. The staff also meet with members of advocacy groups like the Centro Campesino, Community Connectors (Worthington), Mujeres of the Red River Valley and the Plainview Migrant Committee, among many others. We make referrals as necessary and direct them to the appropriate state agencies and other non-profits.
- We continue to be an active member of the South Eastern Minnesota Migrant and Affordable Housing Coalition, the UMOs Hispanic Housing Partnership and the Minnesota Migrant Services Consortium.
- We participate in presentations that bring information about Latinos to students and the

Working Towards a Common Goal

Economic Development

- We are a sponsoring member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Minnesota. For the past two years, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has worked together with the council in a series of projects intended to create awareness and educate the Latino community regarding business development. Our goal continue to be to empower our community through work with the Chamber in business development.
- We are one of the primary resources and referral agencies for Latino entrepreneurs trying to set up their businesses.
- We created the Latino Tourism Taskforce on April, 2002 to look at ways to foster and support Latino tourism in the state of Minnesota.

Research and Access to Latino Data

- The council has developed a database using 2000 Census data that is on our website and which is a resource not only to state agencies in their planning but also to non-profit groups, students and community members.
- We have co-sponsored studies with the non-profit organization HACER (Hispanic Advocacy and Empowerment Through Research) directed towards finding data that is not available through other means.
- The council actively participated in the concept development, research review and development of the report by the Center for Rural Policy and Development titled; “The Vitality of Latino Communities in Minnesota”.
- Our website, www.clac.state.mn.us has the following reports, all filtered and created by our own staff:

Hispanic or Latino Demographic Profiles—Each demographic profile contains population and housing data about Hispanics or Latinos in Minnesota. There are demographic profiles for over 200 geographic areas in MN.

Hispanic/Latino in Minnesota Counties

Ethnic Heritage of Latinos in Minnesota

Distribution of Latinos in Minnesota

Latino Population Pyramid

Latino population per congressional district

Minnesota cities with more than 1,000 Latino residents

Minnesota counties with more than 1,000 Latino residents

Working Towards a Common Goal

Collaborations

One of the most effective ways for the CLAC to achieve its goals it to collaborate with state agencies and community organizations that seek to help our community develop. We continue to collaborate with the following organizations and committees in the pursuit of our common goals:

The Department of Employee Relation's State's Affirmative Action Council,
The Department of Corrections' Community Preservation Board,
The Minnesota Court of Appeals Trust in the Justice System Project
The Minnesota Attorney General's Racial Profiling Group
The University of Minnesota Extension Service Community Outreach,
Ramsey County Affirmative Action Programs,
The Department of Human Services' Bias Panel
Minnesota Department of Health—Office of Minority Health
The Department of Human Services Advisory Committee on Welfare Reform,
The Minnesota Pollution Control Environmental Impact Group,
The Immigration and Naturalization Services Community Roundtable
Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's minority housing efforts
Minnesota Department of Economic Development
Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
Minnesota Department of Human Rights
MN Department of Children Families and Learning
League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions
La Mano (Mankato)
League of Minnesota Cities
The Metropolitan Council Minority Advisory Board for the 2030 7-County Metro Development
PLan
Ramsey County Corrections
Center for Rural Policy and Development
University of Minnesota Chicano Latino Studies
Neighborhood Development Association
United Migrant Opportunity Services
Hamline University Center for Excellence in Urban Teaching
Office of the Ombudsperson for Spanish Speaking Families
League of Minnesota Women Voters
The Council for Asian Pacific Minnesotans and the Council for Black Minnesotans
The Somali Justice Center
The Jewish Community Relations Council for Minnesota and the Dakotas
AHANA (Asian, Hispanic, African American and Native American) Council
Chicano Latinos Unidos en Servicio (CLUES)
City of St. Paul Department of Human Rights
Minnesota Planning
Department of Natural Resources Affirmative Action group
Racial Disparities In the Justice System Initiative
Urban League
N.A.A.C.P.
Minnesota Secretary of State
National Council La Raza
Immigrant and Refugee Policy Coalition

Working Towards a Common Goal

Newsletter

The CLAC newsletter is the monthly connection with the Hispanic community. The newsletter is bilingual, published in English and Spanish. All desktop publishing is done within the agency by the agency staff. The Al Dia newsletter is a way for the CLAC to fulfill its mandate to act as a liaison between the state and the community and also to fulfill its information responsibilities. The Al Dia has an extensive mailing list that not only includes individual community members but also community based organizations, all state legislators, agency heads, federal and local government entities, churches, schools, businesses and members of other minority communities.



This newsletter also educates non-Latinos in every sector of the community about Latino issues. Through the Al Dia, the Latino community is informed regarding recently passed laws and policies and procedures that impact our community, government programs that assist them and many other topics of interest to them. The fact that the Al Dia is bilingual is of utmost importance in reaching out to those members of our community that are Spanish speakers with little or no fluency in English. The information disseminated in the Spanish section of Al Dia would not be available otherwise to some members of the Latino community in Minnesota.

Through the Al Dia newsletter, the CLAC informs the public about its activities and encourages the input from readers regarding the past and future goals of the CLAC. Many community based organizations that service Latinos use the Al Dia as a tool to disseminate information that will be of assistance to the community. Each month, the Al Dia covers a different topic and all the information in that issue will be related to that topic, not only for ease of reference but also to make it a useful tool within the community. Some of the topics that have been covered this past year are: mental health, child abuse, legislation, civic duty, taxes, family, employment, housing, education, migrant workers, economic development and Hispanic heritage. The Al Dia is on our website at www.clac.state.mn.us.

Bilingual Directory

The CLAC Bilingual Directory is a comprehensive handbook that lists the names, telephone numbers, addresses and a brief description of all agencies and organizations that serve the Chicano Latino population throughout the state of Minnesota.

This past biennium, approximately ten thousand directories were distributed to state, county and city agencies as well as community-based organizations and community members.

All the information in the Directory is in English and Spanish and includes a section titled: "Frequently Asked Questions" which has information on such issues as: how to become a U.S. citizen, family-based visas, how a bill becomes law, among other information.

Members of the community, as well as government agencies and legislators have indicated that

Issues and Concerns Facing the Hispanic Community

“Countries, like people, live in peace when they respect the rights of everyone” (Benito Juarez)

Education

The main concern for Hispanics in Minnesota, and nationally, continue to be the high drop out rate among Hispanic youth. There has been an exponential increase in the number of foreign born people that have come to Minnesota for work reasons in the last ten years. The children of these people, a great number of which are Latinos, are either behind in school or dropping out of school. There is a need for ways to motivate children to stay in school and learn the importance of higher education. Some of the issues and contributing factors that may play a role in children dropping out of school, and which we obtained from the regional community forums during the last biennium but that continue to be of concern, are:

- the fact that children that are undocumented or have undocumented parents have limited opportunities after graduation,
- the lack of bilingual/bicultural teachers in many schools which would be more sensitive to Hispanic students' language and cultural needs and could serve as role models,
- the fact that there is still racial bias in schools, even though sometimes it is very subtle.

In 1999, the Department of Children Families and Learning reported that the graduation rate for Hispanics was approximately 68%. Comparing that percentage with the percentage of years past, we find that the communities and the government are doing something to improve the situation. However, 31.2% of the Latino children leave school without completion of a grade, which is the highest drop out rate of all minorities in Minnesota.

- There continues to be a significant and persistent disparity between the proportion of Hispanics and other Americans who are high school graduates.
- In 1998, on a national level, the proportion of Hispanics with high school diplomas was at 62.8%, while African Americans who were high school graduates reached 88.2% and Caucasian high school graduates topped 93.6%.
- The drop-out rate of Latino students has remained disproportionately high for the past decade..
- Among Latinos, Mexican-Americans are the least likely to have a high school diploma. *

Because current population numbers and projected demographic trends point to a continued increase in the proportion of Hispanic population in Minnesota, and due to the fact that Latinos are, on average, a youthful population, ensuring the well-being of Latino children and youth under the age of 18 years of age should be a national and state priority.

The economic prosperity of Minnesota, as well as the U.S. ,in general, depends on maximizing the educational and employment outcomes of Hispanic children.

* Data obtained from the National Council of La Raza Report: "U.S. Latino Children-A Status Report", August 2000

Health Care

There is a need in the Hispanic community, as well as in all minority communities in Minnesota, of some action regarding the high cost of health care. In addition, cultural competency of health care practitioners and workers is a concern, as people from different ethnic backgrounds have different beliefs regarding preventive health care and health care in general. Reports indicate that the Hispanic community needs to have a better support system in terms of preventive health, both physical and mental, and not going for treatment when an emergency situation arises. Other issues with health care that have been noted are:

- health care access for undocumented residents and their children, especially those services that are preventive,
- cultural competency among health practitioners and the need for bilingual services to prevent children from being the interpreters of their parents when they visit a health facility,
- requiring that employers pay for health insurance of part-time workers as some Hispanics have two or three part-time jobs and none which pays for health care benefits.

Hispanics suffer a greater incidence of highly preventable diseases, such as AIDS, tuberculosis, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and breast and cervical cancer, than other U.S. groups. Moreover, Hispanics are less likely to have access to health insurance, adequate preventive medical care, or public health education materials.

Affordable Housing

This is a concern in all Hispanic communities, especially those in the Greater Minnesota area. The lack of affordable housing presents a serious problem for the Hispanic community because a big sector of the community is employed in low paying jobs throughout the state. Some of the issues with housing are:

- unavailability of housing stock, particularly in the rural areas,
- when available, the housing that is affordable is in poor conditions,
- the need for more homebuyer education, so Hispanics learn how to prepare themselves in a way that they can purchase a home,
- racial bias is prevalent in some communities, particularly in the rural areas where Hispanics move in order to work,
- the need for adequate housing for migratory workers and their families.

In addition to having more affordable units, there is a need to improve opportunities for homeownership for Hispanic families. To move from being a renter to owning a home, families need some support in the form of subsidies, interest and financing options and other financial alternatives from both government and private sector.

Other Issues That Affect Chicano-Latinos in Minnesota

These issues are also important when discussing the status of Latino in Minnesota. CLAC will continue to address these issues in the next biennium.

Interpretive Services

Rural Minnesota continues to face a major shortage of bilingual professionals in hospitals, government agencies, social service agencies, schools, law enforcement and other organizations. Another concern, already mentioned in our health care section, is that health care agencies are willing to have a child translate for parents, even if the situation was inappropriate for children. Also, organizations with bilingual staff and programs need to be better coordinated so that service gaps can be identified and filled.

Community Integration

There is a need for Latinos to receive information and the tools to learn “living skills” and be able to integrate in the Minnesota community. This refers to everyday things the majority of the American population take for granted, like understanding the school system, being aware a laws related to driving, or even setting up phone service.

Chemical Dependency and Mental Health

There is a general concern in some rural communities as well as in the Twin Cities, that Hispanics are not well educated about chemical dependency and mental health issues, their effects within the family structure, and what type of services are available.

Leadership Development

The Latino community would like to see the state seizing every opportunity it can to help develop Latino leadership skills. There is a need for the community to see more Hispanics in leadership positions within the state government. This can help eliminate the perceptions among Hispanics that leadership opportunities are not available to them.

Coordination of Services

Some community organizations and community members believe that we could have better coordination of community services so that duplication is minimized and services are enhanced.

Immigration

Immigration is a concern for many Latinos in Minnesota. Hispanics in the rural areas of the state find it more difficult and expensive to get their citizenship status, mainly due to the lack of immigration lawyers in some areas. Also, the undocumented status of a person or a family member sometimes prevents Latinos from receiving services that their documented family members can access, especially in the post-September 11 environment.

Racism and Stereotyping

There is a concern within the Latino community in Minnesota that all Latinos are seen by the majority of the population as immigrants even though some are U.S. born or have been in Minnesota for a very long time. The wrong perception regarding Latinos overpowers the positive

Objectives for the Next Biennium

“The light of good deeds is like the light of the stars” (Jose Marti)

Working Towards a Common Goal

The resources of the CLAC are very limited and our operating budget has been cut substantially with possibly more cuts in the future due to the state's budget deficit. As mentioned, we are more effective when we can create collaborations with other organizations, either state government or private non-profits, that serve the needs of the Hispanic population in Minnesota.

The needs are many, but CLAC will focus this next biennium in the following areas:

Education

- Best practices that have been successful in keeping Latino children in school.
- Continue to study and research the reasons why Latino youth are dropping out of school before attaining their high school diploma.
- Promotion and encouragement of Hispanic parents to place their children in pre-school programs and to instill in their children the values of a secondary education in their future.
- Promote legislation that is progressive and promotes bilingual or culturally competent programs directed towards the enhancement of the education of Hispanic youth.
- Explore alternative education methods for Latino children, such as, charter schools, culturally competent child care and day care.
- Work with rural schools that have a high concentration of Hispanics and high concentration of drop out of Hispanic youth.
- Work with state education agencies to improve the hiring and retention of teachers of color and bilingual teachers.

Health

- Maintain our partnership with the Department of Health and other related organizations to address the identified needs within the Latino community.
- Continue to work to ensure that there is more education and information for Latinos on chemical dependency.
- Continue to work to address the lack of interpretive services in the health care area.
- Serve as a link between Latino service providers to identify need for services and improve the service provider's ability to serve those needs.

Affordable Housing

- As we have done in the past, continue to promote the development of bilingual homebuyer education programs, counseling and training.
- Promote set-aside funding for communities of color in Minnesota as we can.
- Maintain our partnership with Hispanic housing organizations that promote the development and study of Hispanic housing needs, including housing for seasonal and migrant workers.

Working Towards a Common Goal

Economic Development

- Work together with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, and other business development organizations to address the concerns of the community and the need for information on developing businesses.
- Ensure that business development organizations provide information and training to small Hispanic business throughout the state.
- Partner with existing business development agencies and business groups to study the needs of the Latino business community and assess the impact of Latino businesses in the state.
- Analyze the Hispanic contribution to the economic well being of the state.

Hispanic Leadership

- Collaborate with community leaders to determine how to address the need for leadership development within the Latino community.
- Develop and maintain a resume bank of Latino professionals and the areas of expertise that can be a resource for the governor, state departments and the private sector when there is an opening for jobs.

Additional Projects

- Work towards community integration.
- Advocate against racism and stereotyping.
- Collaborate with different groups to study and promote the impact and contribution of Hispanics to the state of Minnesota.
- Continue our work on the Profile of Latinos in Minnesota report that utilizes the Census 2000 data and which provides a snapshot of our community.

List Receipts and Expenditures

Financial Report F Y 2001-2002

| CHICANO LATINO AFFAIRS COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT FY 2001 - 2002 | | | |
|---|------------|--|----------------------|
| REVENUES | | | |
| General Fund | Operations | | 658,000.00 |
| Grants | | | 4,000.00 |
| Gift Fund | | | 633.00 |
| Balances Forwarded In (100 & 690) | | | 45,359.00 |
| Other (Interest) | | | 1,160.00 |
| TOTAL | | | \$ 709,152.00 |
| EXPENDITURES | | | |
| Salaries & Benefits | | | 420,033.00 |
| Space Rental, Maintenance, Utilities | | | 58,138.00 |
| Repairs | | | 0.00 |
| Printing & Advertising | | | 48,248.00 |
| Prof./Tech. Services Outside V. | | | 14,409.00 |
| Computer & Systems Service | | | 740.00 |
| Communications | | | 23,936.00 |
| Travel In-State | | | 9,024.00 |
| Travel Out-State | | | 7,014.00 |
| Supplies | | | 11,566.00 |
| Equipment | | | 13,456.00 |
| Employee Development | | | 9,146.00 |
| Other Operating Costs | | | 1,003.00 |
| Legal Services | | | 988.00 |
| Balances Forwarded Out | | | 44,266.00 |
| Cancellations | | | 47,185.00 |
| TOTAL | | | \$ 709,152.00 |
| <p>The above information is based on the reports provided by MN Department of Administration/Financial Management and Reporting Division.</p> | | | |

Fiscal Year 2001 Expenditures

| FY- 2001 EXPENDITURES | General Operations 100/1000 | Board Expenses 100/1001 | Special Revenue 200/fund | Gift Fund 690/1006 | Gift Fund 690/1007 | Gift Fund 690/1008 | Gift Fund 690/1009 | TOTAL |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1A0 - SALARIES & BENEFITS | 200,975.00 | 0.00 | | | | | | 200,975.00 |
| 1C0 - OVERTIME SALARIES | 505.00 | 0.00 | | | | | | 505.00 |
| 1E0 - BOARD COMP | 171.00 | 1,045.00 | | | | | | 1,216.00 |
| 2A0 - RENT | 28,702.00 | 0.00 | | | | | | 28,702.00 |
| 2C0 - PRINTING & ADVERT | 21,235.00 | 4,807.00 | | | | | | 26,042.00 |
| 2D0 - PROF/TECH SERV | 7,500.00 | 6,909.00 | | | | | | 14,409.00 |
| 2E0 - COMPUTER SERV | 577.00 | 0.00 | | | | | | 577.00 |
| 2F0 - COMMUNICATIONS | 12,830.00 | 0.00 | | | | | | 12,830.00 |
| 2G0 - TRAVEL, IN-STATE | 2,873.00 | 2,116.00 | | | | | | 4,989.00 |
| 2H0 - TRAVEL, OUT-STATE | 2,368.00 | 1,324.00 | | | | | | 3,692.00 |
| 2J0 - SUPPLIES | 5,095.00 | 0.00 | | | | | | 5,095.00 |
| 2K0 - EQUIPMENT | 7,895.00 | 0.00 | | | | | | 7,895.00 |
| 2L0 - EMPLOYEE DEVELOP | 1,680.00 | 1,350.00 | | | | | | 3,030.00 |
| 2M0 - OTHER OPER COSTS | 924.00 | 0.00 | | | | | | 924.00 |
| 290 - LEGAL SERV AG | 998.00 | 0.00 | | | | | | 998.00 |
| TOTAL | 294,308.00 | 17,551.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | \$ 11,867.00 |

Fiscal Year 2002 Expenditures

| FY- 2002 EXPENDITURES | General Operations 100/1000- 1001 | Special Revenue 200/Fund | Gift Fund 690/1004 | Gift Fund 690-1006 | Gift Fund 690/1007 | Gift Fund 690/1008 | Gift Fund 690- 1009 | TOTAL |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1A0 - SALARIES & BENEFITS | 206,117.00 | 4,000.00 | | | | | | 210,117.00 |
| 1E0 - BOARD COMP | 7,220.00 | | | | | | | 7,220.00 |
| 2A0 - RENT | 29,438.00 | | | | | | | 29,438.00 |
| 2C0 - PRINTING & ADVERT | 17,554.00 | | | 4,652.00 | | | | 22,206.00 |
| 2D0 - PROF/TECH SERV | 0.00 | | | | | | | 0.00 |
| 2E0 - COMPUTER SERV | 163.00 | | | | | | | 163.00 |
| 2F0 - COMMUNICATIONS | 11,106.00 | | | | | | | 11,106.00 |
| 2G0 - TRAVEL, IN-STATE | 4,035.00 | | | | | | | 4,035.00 |
| 2H0 - TRAVEL, OUT-STATE | 3,324.00 | | | | | | | 3,324.00 |
| 2J0 - SUPPLIES | 6,481.00 | | | | | | | 6,481.00 |
| 2K0 - EQUIPMENT | 5,561.00 | | | | | | | 5,561.00 |
| 2L0 - EMPLOYEE DEVELOP | 6,116.00 | | | | | | | 6,116.00 |
| 2M0 - OTHER OPER COST | 79.00 | | | | | | | 79.00 |
| 280 - LEGAL SERV AG | 0.00 | | | | | | | 0.00 |
| TOTAL | 297,192.00 | 4,000.00 | 0.00 | 4,652.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | \$ 305,844.00 |

A ppendix

3.9223 Council on affairs of Chicano/Latino people.

Subdivision 1. Membership. The state council on affairs of Chicano/Latino people consists of 11 members appointed by the governor, including eight members representing each of the state's congressional districts and three members appointed at large. The demographic composition of the council members must accurately reflect the demographic composition of Minnesota's Chicano/Latino community, including migrant workers, as determined by the state demographer. Membership, terms, compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies are as provided in section 15.0575. Because the council performs functions that are not purely advisory, the council is not subject to the expiration date in section 15.059. Two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker and two members of the senate appointed by the subcommittee on committees of the committee on rules and administration shall serve as nonvoting members of the council. The council shall annually elect from its membership a chair and other officers it deems necessary.

Subd. 2. Chicano/Latino people. For purposes of subdivisions 3 to 7, the term "Chicano/Latino person" means a person who was born in, or whose ancestors are from, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Panama, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, or Venezuela.

Subd. 3. Duties. The council shall:

(1) advise the governor and the legislature on the nature of the issues confronting Chicano/Latino people in this state, including the unique problems encountered by Chicano/Latino migrant agricultural workers;

(2) advise the governor and the legislature on statutes or rules necessary to ensure Chicano/Latino people access to benefits and services provided to people in this state;

(3) recommend to the governor and the legislature legislation to improve the economic and social condition of Chicano/Latino people in this state;

(4) serve as a conduit to state government for organizations of Chicano/Latino people in the state;

(5) serve as a referral agency to assist Chicano/Latino people to secure access to state agencies and programs;

(6) serve as a liaison with the federal government, local government units, and private organizations on matters relating to the Chicano/Latino people of this state;

(7) perform or contract for the performance of studies designed to suggest solutions to problems of Chicano/Latino people in the areas of education, employment, human rights, health, housing, social welfare, and other related programs;

(8) implement programs designed to solve problems of Chicano/Latino people when authorized by other statute, rule, or order; and

(9) publicize the accomplishments of Chicano/Latino people and their contributions to this state.

Subd. 4. Review and recommendation authority. All applications for the receipt of federal money and proposed rules of a state agency that will have their primary effect on Chicano/Latino people must be submitted to the council for review and recommendation at least 15 days before submission to a federal agency or initial publication in the State Register.

Subd. 5. Powers. The council may contract in its own name. Contracts must be approved by a majority of the members of the council and executed by the chair and the executive director. The council may apply for, receive, and expend in its own name grants and gifts of money consistent with the power and duties specified in this section.

The council shall appoint an executive director who is experienced in administrative activities and familiar with the problems and needs of Chicano/Latino people. The council may delegate to the executive director powers and duties under this section that do not require council approval. The executive director and council staff serve in the unclassified service. The executive director may be removed at any time by a majority vote of the entire council. The executive director shall recommend to the council the appropriate staffing necessary to carry out its duties. The commissioner of administration shall provide the council with necessary administrative services.

Subd. 6. State agency assistance. Other state agencies shall supply the council upon request with advisory staff services on matters relating to the jurisdiction of the council. The council shall cooperate and coordinate its activities with other state agencies to the highest possible degree.

Subd. 7. Report. The council shall prepare and distribute a report to the governor and legislature by November 15 of each even-numbered year. The report shall summarize the activities of the council since its last report, list receipts and expenditures, identify the major problems and issues confronting Chicano/Latino people, and list the specific objectives that the council seeks to attain during the next biennium.

HIST: 1978 c 510 s 1-7; 1981 c 356 s 374,375; 1983 c 260 s 2; 1983 c 305 s 2; 1Sp1985 c 13 s 67; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 469 art 1 s 1; 1988 c 629 s 3; 1988 c 686 art 1 s 33; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 2; 1991 c 292 art 3 s 3; 1996 c 420 s 3

All desktop publishing for this report was done at the Chicano Latino Affairs Council offices by its staff.

November 2002