

State of Minnesota



Chicano Latino Affairs Council 2004-2006 Biennial Report

Submitted to the Governor and Minnesota State Legislature
In compliance with Minnesota Statute 3.9223, Subd. 7

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A report published by the Chicano Latino Affairs Council



Building a Common Ground for the Common Good

CLAC

CHICANO LATINO
AFFAIRS COUNCIL



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Executive Summary

This 2004-2006 Biennial Report summarizes the activities of the State of Minnesota Council on Affairs of Chicano/Latino People (formerly known as the Spanish Speaking Affairs Council; hereinafter CLAC or the Council) since the 2002-2004 Biennial Report. The report identifies the major issues and concerns that face Minnesota's Latino community. Furthermore, the report provides credible information regarding Latino demographics in state, public school enrollment, and other Latino public affairs. A list of specific topics of interests and objectives are stated in the report and serve as a foundation in which the CLAC will seek to engage in the next biennium. The Council's enabling statute and list of receipts and expenditures is also included.







The Council: A Closer Look at CLAC



Message from the Executive Director

Building a Common Ground for the Common Good

On behalf of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council board and staff, I am very pleased to present the Council's Biennial Report for the Fiscal Year 2004-2006 periods. The objective of this report is to highlight and provide a summary of the Council's programs, activities, and studies that were conducted in the past two years, and to present our objectives in the next biennium. Moreover, this report identifies ongoing public policy issues that continue to afflict Minnesota's Latino community state-wide and presents the Council's strategic objectives in which to transform and engage public policy-making to champion Latino public affairs in Minnesota for the common good.

In the past two years, the Council addressed several challenges and needs that faced the state's Latino community, such as k-12 education, access to higher education, affordable health care, adequate housing opportunities, immigration, and economic development to name a few. Through civic engagement and community and regional forums, the Council was able to evaluate and assess the political landscape and seek various methods to build and strengthen capacity with main players and stakeholders in the Latino community at all levels. At the Council, we believe that building and nurturing bridges of solidarity and a unity of purpose with agencies and community organizations will ensure the Latino voice throughout the state and empower the community to become strong, visible, and viable.

In the new biennium, the Council will shift its priorities to build a common ground of understanding and address the changing demographics of the face of Minnesota. We look forward to educate the general public about the Latino community and its monumental contributions to Minnesota's strong economic and workforce development, vibrant culture and arts, and intellectual capital. In essence, the Chicano Latino Affairs Council seeks the common good of one progressive and strong Minnesota.

Best wishes,

Rogelio L. Muñoz, Jr
Executive Director



Agency Purpose

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council (formerly the Spanish-Speaking Affairs Council) was created by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1978 pursuant to Minnesota Statute section 3.9223, subdivision 3, to perform the following primary objectives: to advise the governor and legislature of the state of Minnesota on issues regarding the Chicano/Latino community; to promote important issues on behalf the state's Latino community; and to serve as a conduit to state government for organizations of Chicano/Latino people in the state.

9 Legislative Goals

The council shall:

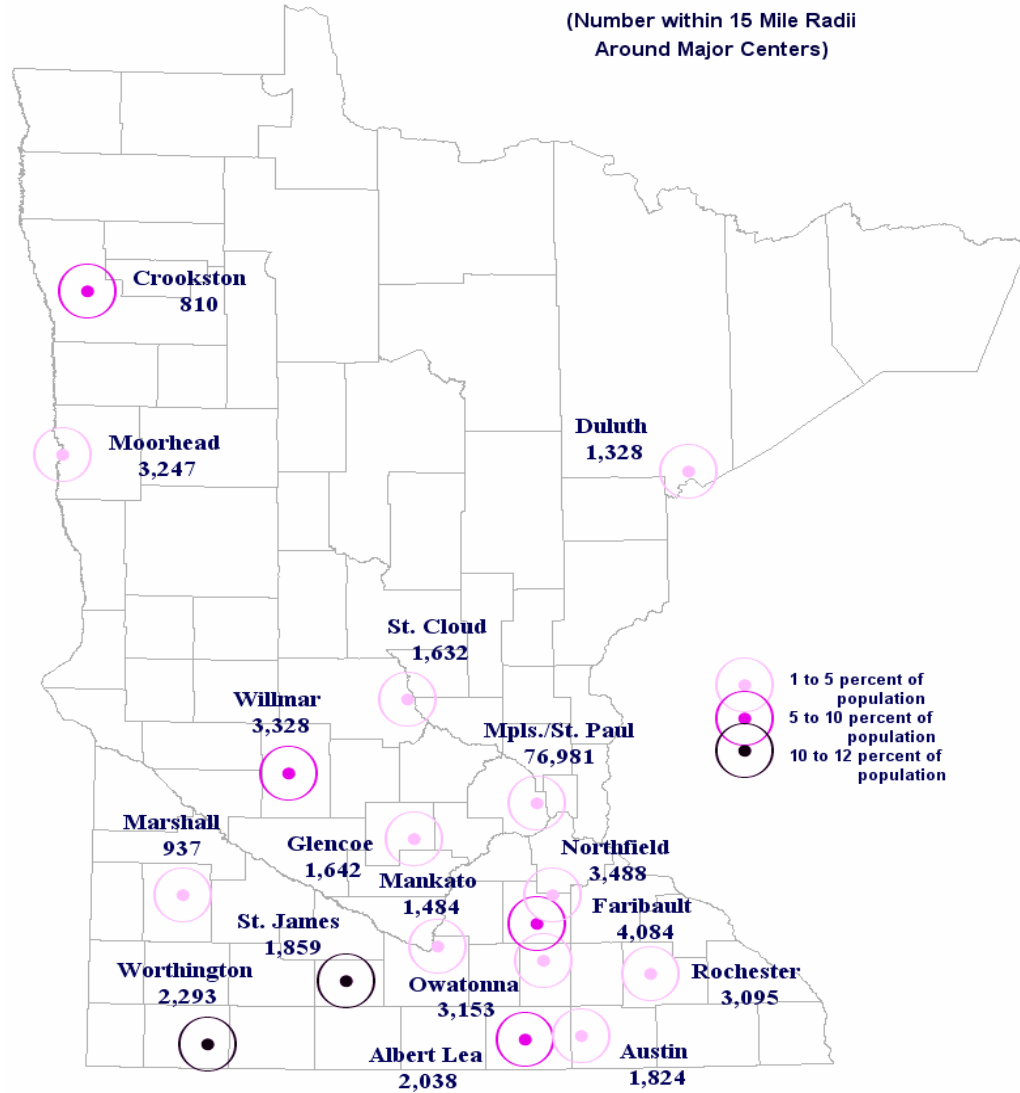
- (1) advise the governor and the legislature on the nature of the issues confronting Chicano/Latino people in this state, including the unique problems encountered by Chicano/Latino migrant agricultural workers;
- (2) advise the governor and the legislature on statutes or rules necessary to ensure Chicano/Latino 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.



Building a Common Ground for the Common Good: Demographics

Chicano/Latino Clusters

(Number within 15 Mile Radii
Around Major Centers)

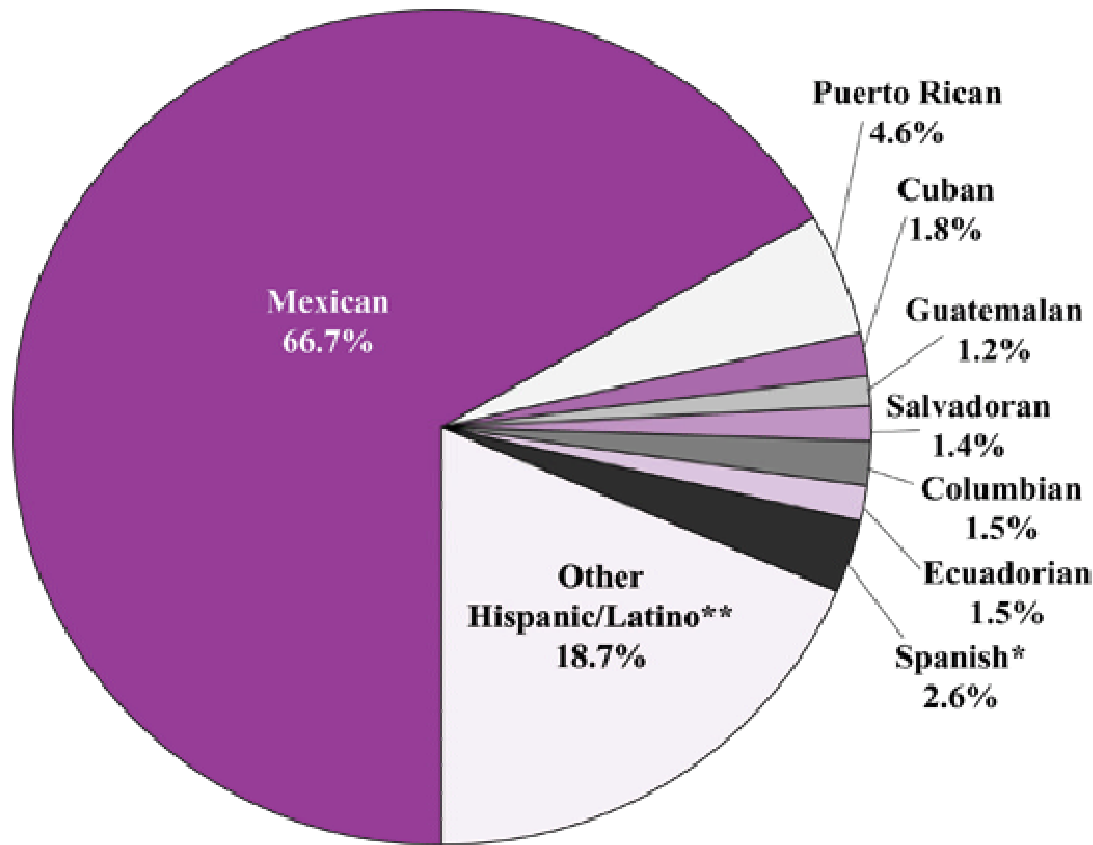


Source: Census 2000 Summary File 1
Graphic by Minnesota Planning, State Demography Center



Building a Common Ground for the Common Good: Demographics

Latino Make up of Minnesota



In 2000, about 2.9% of Minnesota’s residents (143,382 people) identified as Hispanic or Latino, with the largest groups identifying as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Spanish, Cuban, Salvadoran, Ecuadorian, Colombian, or Guatemalan (see figure). While these groups share a common language, each is unique in terms of history, cultural practices and beliefs, and experiences within the United States. Nationwide, Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans tend to be younger than the general population, have the least education, and also have the highest unemployment and poverty rates of any Hispanic or Latino groups. Cubans, on the other hand, are typically the best-educated, most affluent, and least likely to live in poverty.

- Includes people who identify as Spaniard, Spanish, or Spanish American.
- Includes: (1) people who identify as Dominican, Costa Rican, Honduran, Nicaraguan, Panamanian, Argentinean, Bolivian, Chilean, Paraguayan, Peruvian, Uruguayan, Venezuelan, or with other Central and South American countries; and (2) people who identify as Hispanic or Latino, but did not indicate a country or culture when responding to the 2000 Census.

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population and Housing, SF-1.



CLAC Staff

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:

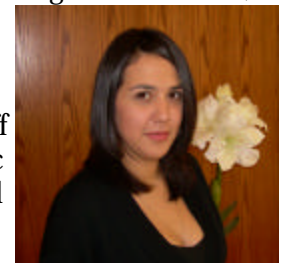
- Review and make recommendations to the governor and the legislature as to statutes or rules necessary to ensure that Chicano Latinos are well served in the state;
- Recommend legislation to improve the economic and social status of Chicano Latinos in the state;
- Serve as a conduit for state government 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 are hired and supervised by the Executive Director. Currently, the CLAC has the following staff:



Administrative Assistant Gladys B. Rodriguez, wears many hats at CLAC. She 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. Gladys 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. She is also the council's webmaster, updating and maintaining on a regular basis the council's website as well as the links and electronic communications with community members. She designs all desktop publishing for the council, including "*El Minnesotano!*" newsletter, the Bilingual Directory, all brochures and reports.

Marlene Aguayo is the Office Specialist and newest member of the CLAC staff. Since starting at the Council, Marlene has assisted staff with planning several projects and activities, such as the 2006 Latino Education Power Luncheon and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Leadership Seminar at the University of Minnesota. Currently, Marlene is working on the 2007-2008 Bilingual Directory and provides assistance to staff on the *¡El Minnesotano!* newsletter and is the note recorder for the CLAC Board meetings.



CLAC Board of Directors

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. Board members elect their officers each year.

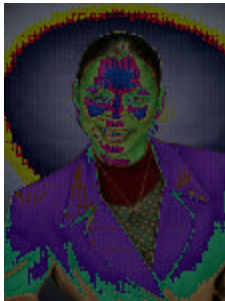
The CLAC Board of Directors are:



Heladio F. Zavala, Chair - MN District 6
Appointed on June 5, 2003
Heritage: Mexican-American
Resides: Sartell, MN



Elia Bruggeman ~MN District 1
Appointed on August 2002
Heritage: Mexican-American
Resides: Sleepy Eye, MN
Company/Title: Sleepy Eye High School, Principal



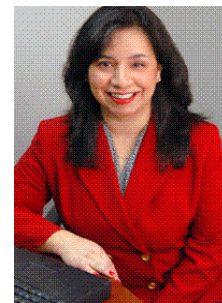
Maricruz Hill ~At-Large member
Appointed on December 9, 2004
Heritage: Puerto Rican-American
Resides: Chanhassen, MN
Company/Title: U.S.Bank, Regional Project Manager



Omar Salas ~MN District 2
Appointed on June 2003
Heritage: Bolivian-American
Resides: Woodbury, MN
Company/Title: Andersen Corporation, Sr. Recruiting Specialist



Dr. Louis D. Gonzalez ~At-Large member
Appointed on September 29, 2004
Heritage: Mexican-American
Resides: Richfield, MN
Company/Title: Centers for Training and Careers, President



Adriana O'Meara ~MN District 3
Appointed on September 2006
Heritage: Mexican-American
Resides: Minnetonka, MN
Company/Title: Anderi International, Executive Director



CLAC Board of Directors



Edgardo Rodriguez ~MN District 5
Appointed on September 2004
Heritage: Puerto Rican-American
Resides: Minneapolis, MN
Company/Title: MEDA



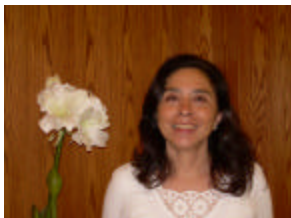
House Representative Rod Hamilton, District 22B (R)
Representative Hamilton (Mountain Lake, MN) is one of the two House Representatives appointed to the board.



Sonia Mayo Hohnadel ~MN District 7
Appointed on September 7, 2006
Heritage: Mexican-American
Resides: Moorhead, MN
Company/Title: Tri-College University, Communications Coordinator/Assistant to the Provost



House Representative Al Juhnke, District 13B (DFL)
Representative Juhnke, (Willmar, MN) is one of the two House Representatives appointed to the board.



Teresa Dawson ~MN District 8
Appointed on June 2003
Heritage: Peruvian-American
Resides: Duluth, MN
Company/Title: Marshall School, Librarian



Senator Julie Rosen, District 24 ®
Senator Rosen (Fairmont, MN) is one of two Senators appointed to serve on our board.



Senator Dean Johnson, District 13 (DFL)
Senator Johnson (Willmar, MN) is one of two Senators appointed to serve on our board.

*Juan Lazo~ At Large

Picture and information not available





Performance Summary: Activities Since Last Report



Performance Summary: Activities Since Last Report

EDUCATION

In recent years, much attention has focused on the issue of education at all levels in Minnesota, especially among the state’s growing racial and ethnic makeup. Minority education, specifically among Latinos, has taken center stage among the Latino community and policy discussions. One of the CLAC’s main strategic objectives is to decrease the “achievement gap” in the classroom and increase the graduation rate for Latino youth in Minnesota.

According to the Children, Youth, and Family Consortium at the University of Minnesota, educational disparities are defined as “the observed differences in educational opportunities and outcomes among two or more groups” (Siebenbruner, 2006). Statistics reflect that Latino high school students in Minnesota have the one of lowest graduation rates of all minority groups. And in 2006, the Minnesota Minority Education Project’s “State of Students of Color” reported that participation in post-secondary education among Latino high school graduates is the lowest among all ethnic and racial cohorts (MMEP, 2006).

Latino Students in our Public Schools: A Closer Look

In 2005, the CLAC contracted the Center for Rural Policy and Development to commission a report that addressed Latino students in Minnesota’s public schools. The intentions of the report were to provide a more comprehensive study on the participation, achievement, and funding of Latino students in the state. The basic goals of this study included:

- To better understand the enrollment patterns of Latino students in Minnesota’s public schools;
- To better understand the academic challenges among Latino students;
- To examine the revenue sources provide to public schools that can be attributed to Latino enrollment;
- To learn about programmatic activities undertaken by schools to improve the retention and achievement of Latino students.

The findings of the study concluded that the state of Minnesota has seen a substantial increase and rapid growth of Latino student enrollment state-wide. Between 2001 to 2006, Latino enrollments increased 38.5 percent while the state’s overall enrollment declined 3 percent, respectively (Center for Rural Policy and Development, 2006). Additionally, the state’s Latino student enrollment increased from 3.7 percent to 5.3 percent of all students in public schools.

Table 1 ~ below shows the Latino and overall Student Census 2001-2002 through 2005-2006.

School Year	Total Enrollment	Latino Enrollment	Pct. Latino
2001-2002	822,940	30,605	3.7%
2002-2003	816,077	33,805	4.1%
2003-2004	809,077	36,674	4.5%
2004-2005	801,191	39,306	4.9%
2005-2006	797,804	42,393	5.3%

In the fall 2006, the CLAC and the Center for Rural Policy and Development hosted a power lunch at Boca Chica in the heart of West St. Paul. The luncheon featured Dr. Jack Geller, Director of the Center for Rural Policy and Development, and discussed the objectives and findings of the study with members from the Latino community and the general public in attendance.

The following attendees included:

MN Dept. of Education	Center for Rural Policy	MN State University
Edison High School	La Escuelita	Hennepin Cty– Health
Dept. of Chicano Studies	CLAC Board of Directors	Sleepy Eye School District
Anderi Corporation	Anderson Corporation	UMOS
Otto Bremmer Foundation	Upward Bound-University of Minnesota	Metropolitan State University
Neighborhood House	MN State Demographic Center	American Family Insurance

Performance Summary: Activities Since Last Report

Let's Get Connected: Library Latino Outreach Workshop

In an effort to increase awareness of the library services readily available and provided to the Latino community, the CLAC co-sponsored with the State Library Services of the Minnesota Department of Education a workshop entitled, "Get Connected: Library Latino Outreach." The purpose of the workshop allowed organizations to re-establish working relationships, present different outreach techniques and methods utilized, and inform each other of the different services they provide for Latinos.

Some of the participants and presenters included the following:

Ramsey County Library	Casa de Esperanza	St. Paul Public Library
Metro State Library	State Library Services	Dakota County Library
Minneapolis Public Library	Hennepin County Library	Inver Grove Heights School
MN Department of Health	Neighborhood House	Hennepin Technical College
St. Joseph's Hospital	Anoka County Library	Ramsey County Library
La Conexión	CLUES	United Family Practice
CLAC	Courage Center	Fairview Hospital
Girl Scout Council, St. Croix	Washington County Library	Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funded this meeting through a partnership with WebJunction, an online community for librarians. The Minnesota Department of Education and State Library Services administers the program.

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute: Student Leadership Development & Educational Awareness Summit

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council welcomed a delegation from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute of Washington, D.C. to the University of Minnesota. The delegation was joined by CHCI Chairwoman and U.S. Congresswoman Grace Flores-Napolitano, CA-38, CHCI President and CEO Esther Aguilera, CHCI alum and Minnesota native Naomi Barry-Perez, and other CHCI staff members. This was the first time CHCI had been to the Twin Cities as they were making inroads on their outreach tour to the Upper-Midwest region. The Department of Chicano Studies at the University of Minnesota officially welcomed the CHCI delegation and attendees to the university.

The Honorable Grace Flores-Napolitano gave remarks to the university community and high school students about the importance for Latinos to graduate from high school and attain a degree of higher education, especially in science, math, and technology. The Student Leadership & Educational Summit was co-sponsored by CLAC and CHCI with the intent to spread awareness among Minnesota's Latino youth in high schools and colleges about the opportunities for them to participate and contribute to the American policy making process.

Also welcoming CHCI was Rudy Rodriguez, Director of Multicultural Marketing at General Mills. At the summit, General Mills, a global leader in the food industry, announced the CHCI-Cheerios Healthy Hearts Initiative, a three-year scholarship initiative to help ensure Hispanic students have equal access in pursuing and completing a higher education degree.

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's mission is to develop the next generation of Hispanic leaders through education and civic engagement at the local, state, and federal levels.



Performance Summary: Activities Since Last Report

Furthermore, CHCI offers educational and leadership development programs, services, and activities that promote the growth of participants as effective professionals and strong leaders. The organization also offers scholarships to students nation-wide. Below are some of the attendees of the Student Leadership Development & Educational Awareness Summit and those who helped welcome CHCI to Minnesota for the first time:

Hennepin County	General Mills	U of M – Provost Office
U of MN- Chicano Studies	University of Minnesota	Metropolitan State University
CLAC Board of Directors	Minneapolis School District	Champlin Park High School
College of St. Benedict	St. John’s University	CLUES

1st Annual Central Minnesota College Fair for Latino Students

One of the CLAC’s most important and strategic objectives to help empower the Latino community in Minnesota is access to education. The Chicano Latino Affairs Council was very proud to participate in the 1st Annual Central Minnesota College Fair for Latino Students held at the College of St. Benedict in Collegetown, Minnesota. At the college fair, the CLAC was able to join Minnesota colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, and state agencies to provide critical information about the importance for Latino students to graduate from high school and seek inroads to higher education.

In addition, CLAC Executive Director Rogelio L. Muñoz, Jr. spoke on a panel during a session entitled, “Choosing a Major & Getting Involved.” The session addressed the opportunities college students have available to them, such as scholarships, study aboard programs, and internships. One of the highlights from the session was the national internship program sponsored by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). The HACU National Internship Program seeks Latino college students from

across the country and places them within companies and organizations from the private and public sectors. Lastly, the CLAC provided the high school students with a scholarship resource list where students could access information about college admission, financial aid, scholarships, and internships.

Students represented the following neighboring high schools and organizations:

Johnson High School	Johnson Girl Scouts	Richfield High School
Melrose High School	Henry Sibley High School	Ctr. For Training & Careers
Patrick Henry High School	Park Center High School	Immigrant Freedom Network
Northfield High School	Willmar High School	Edison High School
Southwest High School	Harding High School	Armstrong High School

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT—EL PUEBLO HISPANO

In an effort to increase awareness of the issues facing the Latino community in Minnesota, the CLAC has continued to work very hard to organize the state’s only and all-encompassing Hispanic conference, “El Pueblo Hispano – Building Community.” The essence of the conference was to educate on Latino public affairs in the state, gather and share valuable input on important Latino issues, network with other members or those that serve the Latino community, and celebrate Minnesota’s growing Latino diversity. Most importantly, “El Pueblo Hispano” brought in experts from the fields of education, work force development, migrant labor, health and human services, housing, economic development, civil rights, immigration, and philanthropy to discuss the Latino public affairs specific to the environment of Minnesota.

The 2005 El Pueblo Hispano Conference proved success with about 200 conference attendees from both the public and private sectors in the Twin



Performance Summary: Activities Since Last Report

Cities metro-area, greater and rural Minnesota, and neighboring Wisconsin. The conference had several track sessions that provided valuable information and an opportunity of dialogue with conference attendees. The following were five conference tracks at the conference: Public Policy, Building Inclusive Communities, Education, Hispanic Business Institute, and Health and Human Services. In addition, the sessions addressed the need for better practices in each track and that through unity and collaboration the Hispanic community in Minnesota would succeed.

Furthermore, the conference also recognized the contributions and growing investments made by the Latino community to the state of Minnesota and the United States. It reflected the growing trends of Latinos in the state and all across the country and how critical Latinos are to community development, the economy, and politics. The conference also provided an opportunity for conference attendees and guests to discuss on-going issues that continue to afflict the Latino community: immigration, discrimination, poverty, access to education, and health.

The following are just some of the organizations and representatives that attended the 2005 El Pueblo Hispano Conference – Building Community:

City of Minneapolis	Sleepy Eye High School	City of St. Paul
Casa de Esperanza	St. Cloud Times	Mower County
Central MN jobs & Training	Ramsey County Mental Health Center	Child Care Resources and Referral
MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Dev.	Tri-Valley Migrant Head Start	Neighborhood Development Center
Skylight Financial	UMOS	Migrant Health Services
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	MN State Demographic Center	MN Dept. of Health and Human Services
CLAC Board of Directors	MEDA	LEDC
Univ. of Minnesota Extension Program	Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
City of Austin	El Milagro Lutheran Church	MN Dept. of Education

VOTER REGISTRATION KITS & OUTREACH

The right to vote is very important for *Minnesotanos*. In preparation for the 2004 & 2006 election cycles, the Council volunteered and assisted with Latino voter registration and awareness of political issues. The CLAC was instrumental in providing several community organizations with research and support on Latino census figures for Minnesota’s legislative and congressional districts.

In an effort to increase voter registration among the Latino community and awareness on the issues, the Council partnered with Centro Legal, Inc., a non-profit community law office in St. Paul, at several community events in the summer 2006 and passed out Voter Registration Kits. Some of the events included the Colombian Independence Day Festival on Franklin Avenue and “La Feria,” hosted by La Oportunidad on East Lake Street in Minneapolis. Both events attracted hundreds of Latinos from the Twin Cities metro-area.

The Voter Registration Kits contained current information on how to become a registered voter in the state of Minnesota. The kit was also printed in both English and Spanish and provided step-by-step information on registration process, such as to how to fill in personal information. The Council also distributed voting informational materials and geographical maps of the Latino clusters reaching across the state from Moorhead to Winona and Duluth to Worthington. As previously indicated, the biggest Latino clusters are within the St. Paul-Minneapolis metro-area.

Both events provided the Council with the opportunity to do outreach to the Latino community and community organizations and bring awareness to some of the activities and projects underway at the CLAC.



Performance Summary: Activities Since Last Report

2006 MINORITY POLITICAL SUMMIT

During the 2006 election season, the Council participated in the 2006 Minority Political Summit co-sponsored by the Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice, University of Minnesota, Asian American Press, Latino Communication Network Media, Hmong Times, Minnesota Multicultural Media Coalition, and the Africa News Journal. The CLAC also played an integral part as a planning committee member for the summit.

The objective of the 2006 Minority Political Summit was to bring awareness of minority issues to the election platforms of candidates running for state office in Minnesota, such as for Governor, Senator, Congress, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and State Auditor. The general theme from the participants of the summit was that minorities in Minnesota carry the same hopes and dreams as those of the general public. Moreover, the summit highlighted the contributions Minnesota's minority communities have made to state. Minorities have added to the cultural capital of Minnesota through food, theatre, art, music, and dance. Additionally, minorities continue to play critical roles as both high skilled worker and essential workers; they will also make up an increasingly larger share of the workforce of the future of Minnesota.

At the summit, each community member had a two-minute limit to present issues and concerns most relevant to their communities. Some of the points of interests were equal opportunity education, judicial appointments, affordable health care, workforce & business development, immigration, crime, higher education, housing, transportation, and the elderly.

The CLAC presented three important issues among the Latino community: Minnesota's New Neighbor, agriculture, and K-12 education. The phrase "Minnesota's New Neighbor" depicts the growing number of Latinos in the state and the state's response to the needs and challenges that afflict the community. In addition, the CLAC highlighted the state's agriculture industry and how the Latino community plays an integral role in contributing to industry's workforce in food processing centers.

Lastly, the CLAC raised awareness and pushed for policy change to lessen the achievement gap in the classroom that exists between minority and non-minority students. On October 20, 2006, the sponsors for the summit gathered at the Minnesota State Capitol to release the report of the summit and evaluate the integration of minority policy priorities in the policy platforms of candidates in Minnesota. The report made news in local media outlets, such as the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, *Minnesota Daily*, *La Prensa*, *Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder*, and the *Asian American Press*.

The 2006 Minority Political Summit was held at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota. The following are just some community members who were present at the summit and delivered remarks and platforms:

Ready4K	Hennepin County	City of St. Paul
Latino Economic Development Center	Chicano Latino Affairs Council	Latino Communication Network
University of Minnesota	Concordia University	MN State Senate
Minnesota Department of Transportation	MN American Indian Chamber of Commerce	Minneapolis American Indian Center
Fifth Quarter Enterprises	HACER	Women of Nations
Council on Black Minnesotans	Minnesota Private Colleges	Children's Law Center of MN

MINNESOTA REPORT CARD SUMMIT

In the fall 2006, the Council participated in the Minnesota Report Card Summit held at Minnesota Public Radio. The event was sponsored by the Wilder Foundation and the Itasca Project with the intent to develop an initiative in establishing universal indicators relative to communities in Minnesota and allows leaders to identify strengths and best position the state for the future.



Performance Summary: Activities Since Last Report

The CLAC Executive Director was one of 40 regional leaders from non-profit/community organizations, government/elected officials, businesses, and other entities to participate in the developmental phase of this initiative. Each participant was given two tasks: (1) to determine what information is most important for understanding how our community is currently doing and how the future will transpire; (2) to identify how to structure the project to ensure efficiency for policy makers and motivate leaders to take action and promote change.

The preliminary results for task one showed interests for addressing current issues of concern in Minnesota regarding the following topics for all communities, including minority/underserved communities: Talent and Human Capital (education and higher education), Society and Culture (safety, voting, and family), Economics (income and wealth disparities and jobs). Task two discussions designed the structure of the project and the participants concluded with following: Shape the Project (define the vision/goal for the region), Engage Stakeholders (bi-partisan groups, community), Final Product (accuracy, understandable, accessible to community), Promoting Change (long-term focus, relevant to current issues).

The Council will continue to provide support to the Wilder Foundation's efforts in leading the Minnesota Report Card and offer other forms guidance and logistical support regarding Latinos in the state.

Some of the participating organizations joining the CLAC at the Summit are as follows:

St. Paul Area Council of Churches	Minnesota Chamber of Commerce	Minnesota Governor's Office
McKnight Foundation	Minnesota Senate	HealthPartners
MN State Demographic Center	Community Action Council	MN House of Representatives
Council on Black Minnesotans	Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota	Neighborhood Development Center
Wilder Research	Catholic Charities	Citizens League

City of Minneapolis	St. Paul Foundation	Itasca Project
Association of Metropolitan Municipalities	Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce	Great North Alliance
Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis	New Americans Community Service	MN State Colleges and Universities

PROCLAMATION

Honoring the state's Latino community and its contributions to Minnesota is one of the Council's important objectives. In an effort to increase more visibility, the Chicano Latino Affairs Council was able to work with the governor's office to honor Minnesota's growing and vibrant Latino community. Governor Tim Pawlenty proclaimed Hispanic Heritage Month in the state of Minnesota from September 15 through October 15, 2006.

The 2006 Hispanic Heritage Month was extremely important this year for the Council as it had been nearly 30 years since the governor of Minnesota had recognized the state's Latino community. The last governor to make a proclamation on behalf of Latinos in Minnesota was former Governor Rudy G. Perpich. Governor Perpich proclaimed Hispanic Heritage Week back in September 12-17, 1977.

National Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15, which is the anniversary of independence for five countries in Central America: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. The purpose behind the heritage month celebration is to honor the many contributions Hispanic Americans have made and continue to make to the United States, respectively.

The Council also received numerous proclamations from cities in the Twin Cities metro area and greater Minnesota. Other 2006 Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamations were received from the Cities of St. Paul, Pelican Rapids, Crookston, Marshall, Austin, and Montgomery.



Performance Summary: Activities Since Last Report

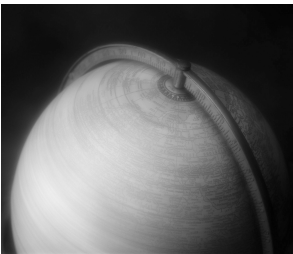
TECHNOLOGY

Visit our new and improved website!

Throughout the years, the Council has become more equipped and technologically savvy by building its website and making it more user-friendly. This effort has largely been made to do more outreach to those members of our community in greater Minnesota, as well as to better serve the Latino community in general and fellow state agencies.

Since summer 2006, the CLAC staff has worked hard at re-building a functional CLAC website. The website will continue to be a tool that will allow the Council to keep community members, advocates, and other state agencies informed about state legislative issues and CLAC events. Also, the website can be utilized by other organizations or groups who wish to promote a community event intended to target the Latino community by submitting a request to the CLAC Executive Director. All decisions to publicize any community event will be at the discretion of the CLAC staff.

HOMELAND SECURITY



Immigration reform and homeland security became a national priority in late 2005, as well as in 2006 for Midwestern states with growing numbers of immigrant communities, such as in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois. The growing concern for most Minnesotans in general is the arduous challenge and impact immigration brings to all platforms. In the end, any legislation

passed by the U.S. Congress must meet and address the Nation's economic and social needs and live up to the promise and values of America.

In July 2006, Governor Tim Pawlenty announced the deployment of 200 Minnesota National Guard members to New Mexico to reinforce and strengthen national security along the border. The Guard members joined other Guard members from 11 other states to provide temporary logistical support, security infrastructure, and engineering functions to the U.S.

Customs and Border Protection agency. The deployment of Minnesota's servicemen and servicewomen to the region is indicative of the state's loyal commitment to serve the country's national priorities. The Chicano Latino Affairs Council testified before the Minnesota State Legislature in 2006 to support the compulsory need and importance for a comprehensive immigration reform plan that is legal, sound, and seeks the common good for Minnesota's immigrant communities. It is important to keep abreast that America is a welcoming nation, and that the strength of its fibers originate from the hard work and diligence of immigrants that have made our Nation prosperous today and for many generations to come.

The CLAC will continue to work closely with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services with their efforts to reach out and educate the Latino immigrant community.

CALL TO JUSTICE – REDUCING RACIAL DISPARITY & ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY

The CLAC joined many community organizations and state government agencies at the Council on Crime and Justice's sponsored *Racial Disparity Initiative* in June 2006. The initiative is lead by the Council on Crime and Justice with the intent to help reduce racial disparity and enhance public safety in Minnesota's justice system.

In the past, the CLAC has participated in many advisory groups on the local and state levels and has promoted discussion regarding lessening racial disparity and stereotypes among the Latino community in Minnesota. The *Racial Disparity Initiative* presented its key findings for the cause and consequences of the disparity and recommendations for community leaders to promote action in minimizing racial disparity, especially among minority groups.

The CLAC is looking forward to continue its partnership with the Council on Crime and Justice and find ways to improve the lives of Minnesota's underserved and underrepresented communities.

Performance Summary: Activities Since Last Report

The CLAC was proud to join the list of partners as indicated below:

Mayor R.T. Rybak, City of Minneapolis	Mayor Chris Coleman, City of St. Paul	Hennepin County Bar Association
Catholic Charities	CLUES	HACER
Latino Economic Development Center	Headwaters Foundation for Justice	Minnesotan Hispanic Bar Association
St. Paul Police Department	Neighborhood House	Ramsey County Corrections
Muslim American Soc.	St. Paul Foundation	Twin Cities RISE!
Minnesota Black Chamber of Commerce	Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers	Minnesota Public Defenders
Latino en Acción	MCTC	General Mills

Another key player and partner in the economic development sector for Latinos is the Latino Economic Development Center, also known as LEDC. The CLAC has continued to strengthen a working relationship with LEDC and refers Latinos and community members who have questions about how to open a business in general or other topics of interest to the Latino business community to LEDC.

The Minnesota Small Business Assistance Office at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and the CLAC held meetings in the summer 2006 to discuss better ways to serve the growing number of Latino businesses in the state. For the first time, the Minnesota Small Business Assistance Office (MSBAO) will launch their guide entitled, "A Guide to Starting A Business in Minnesota" in Spanish in 2007. The Council will be an instrumental resource in introducing the MSBAO to organizations that work with Latinos on business development.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In the last 10 years, the Latino community in Minnesota has become a major player in the state's economic and business development sectors. From West St. Paul's Del Sol District and Minneapolis' East Lake Street to the authentic Mexican restaurants and boutiques in Mankato and Worthington, Minnesota has seen numerous Latinos opening business doors and that upward trend continues today.

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Minnesota has been one of the CLAC's longtime partners in championing the Latino community. With the help and guidance of the Chamber, the Council has diligently worked on a series of projects intended to bring awareness and educate Latinos on the methods of business development.



Photo by David Gonzalez
Cinco de Mayo celebration in District del Sol on the West Side of St. Paul

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA & CLAC INTERNSHIP AGREEMENT

For the first time, the CLAC and the Department of Chicano Studies at the University of Minnesota signed an internship agreement to establish a more formal partnership between the Council and university. The internship agreement entails a University of Minnesota student eligible to participate in the program during the fall, spring, and summer semesters of an academic school year.

The CLAC Internship Program is designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn more about Minnesota's state government, engage the state's Latino community, and contribute to the CLAC's policy objectives. Furthermore, the program allows students to gain valuable experience from the legislative process and the dynamics of working in a state agency.



Performance Summary: Activities Since Last Report

The following is a description of CLAC internship responsibilities for students:

- perform general clerical duties and assist staff with projects;
- assist the Executive Director with publishing CLAC's newsletter;
- assist staff the Bilingual Directory and budget report;
- assist staff with outreach/program/referral activities.

The CLAC believes that by bringing students with interests in Latino public affairs to the halls of the Minnesota State Legislature, it will help bring more understanding and awareness of the Latino community and its platform.

The eligibility criteria for students to participate in the program are as follows:

- student status with the University of Minnesota
- high academic achievement
- strong analytical and writing skills
- bilingual abilities in English and Spanish
- U.S. citizenship or legal permanent residence

RURAL MINNESOTA

Since 2002, the CLAC has had to limit its ability to conduct as many regional forums in greater and rural Minnesota as it once did in the past due to budgetary constraints. Despite the financial challenge for the Council, the staff members from the CLAC were able to participate in meetings and activities in areas of greater Minnesota that have high concentrations of Latinos. Some of the events and activities the CLAC management analyst and community liaison were able to attend were in the following communities: Willmar, Mankato, Moorhead, St. James, Owatonna, and the surrounding Twin Cities area.

The CLAC was able to present at some events and forums on the legislative process, share information on how to access state and private grant funds, and assist newly formed organizations with longtime Latino community organizations and leaders. In August 2006, the CLAC was able to make one last summer tour of southern Minnesota where staff visited with community leaders in Northfield, Faribault, and Owatonna.

During this visit, the CLAC met with officials from the Northfield Community Action Center to discuss the Latino issues in that region. The NCAC is a multi-program and social service agency that serves individuals within the Northfield School District. Some of the issues the NCAC stated that face Latinos around the Northfield area are poverty, literacy, unemployment, gang activity and violence, and teenage pregnancy. To offset these challenges, the NCAC offers a community food shelf and clothing closet for the underprivileged. Additionally, they sponsor a sex-education program for young Latinas and their mothers.



Photo of Mural is located at Centro Cultural in Moorhead Minnesota.

The Council also visited with officials in Faribault and Owatonna to discuss other issues that afflict the Latino community, such as migrant issues, workforce development, housing, immigration, and poverty. In Faribault, the CLAC met with officials from the city's Welcome Center and discussed issues such as the increasing number of Latinos in the city. Faribault, which is located about an hour south of the Twin Cities, has experienced a great wave of recently new immigrants from East Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. Leaders from the Welcome Center shared with the Council ways in which the Center is working with city leaders to integrate its new neighbors and build bridges of common ground and understanding.

Migrant Farm Worker Issues

Each year the state of Minnesota is home to some 20,000 to 30,000 migrant farm workers who come from all over the United States to assist farmers in the agriculture industry. Most the migrant farm workers are of Latino background.

Performance Summary: Activities Since Last Report

While most migratory farm workers stay in Minnesota specifically until the end of the farm season, some workers prolong their stay when other temporary work becomes available. In the past years, the Council has seen upward trends of Latino migrant workers who stay in Minnesota and bring special needs to the communities in which they reside, respectfully. Some of these special needs regard health care, financial literacy, education, and immigration.

The CLAC continues to work and recently visited in August 2006 with Centro Campesino, a non-profit organization founded in 1998 to advocate for migrant workers issues and rights in Minnesota and promote positive social change. Centro Campesino has shared with the Council their objectives and initiatives for migrant workers and how the Council can assist with championing their cause. Since 2002, the CLAC has been active with Centro Campesino in voicing their concerns to community leaders in southern Minnesota and at the state level. Other organizations and advocacy groups the Council has worked with are Community Connectors (Worthington), Mujeres Unidas (Red River Valley), the Plainview Migrant Committee.

The information provided in the *Bilingual Directory* is printed in English and Spanish. It includes a section entitled, "Frequently Asked Questions." This section presents information on such issues as: how to become a U.S. citizen and registered voter, family-based visas, how a bill becomes a law, and other pertinent information.

The CLAC's *Bilingual Directory* is received favorably from the general public. Community members, legislators, and other agencies report that they benefit in kind from the directory.

A hard copy of the *Bilingual Directory* can be ordered by submitting a request to the CLAC front desk or can be downloaded from the CLAC website and is in PDF format. The CLAC web page offers a link for viewers to download a free copy of the newsletter.

The *Bilingual Directory* is published every two years and the council welcomes organizations to submit a request to have their organization published in the directory. The requirements for having an organization published in the directory is merely service or programming initiatives to Latinos.



BILINGUAL DIRECTORY

The CLAC *Bilingual Directory* is another informative publication of the CLAC. The directory has been noted in the past as a comprehensive handbook that lists the names, telephone numbers, addresses, and a brief description of all agencies and organizations that serve Minnesota's Latino community state-wide.

In the past years, CLAC was able to distribute thousands of bilingual directories to city, county, and state government agencies as well as community-

based organizations and community members. However, due to budgetary issues CLAC will shorten its distribution lists and distribute to government agencies and primary organizations that are active in servicing Latinos.

CLAC BRINGS BACK NEWSLETTER ¡EL MINNESOTANO!

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council was very proud to bring back its newsletter after a long two-year hiatus from circulation in late 2004. The new and improved publication, *¡El Minnesotano!* was launched in September 2006 in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The *¡El Minnesotano!* newsletter replaced the council's long-time *Al Dia*, which was first circulated in the late 1970s.



In an effort to fulfill the CLAC's mandate and mission to inform the community and provide current information on a variety of topics and



Performance Summary: Activities Since Last Report

issues, the *jEl Minnesotano!* newsletter will serve as powerful and essential tool of the CLAC to link *Minnesotanos* state-wide. The publication will serve as an outlet to connect Minnesota's vibrant Latino community state-wide with information on Latino public affairs, current events, and issues that face the Latino community.

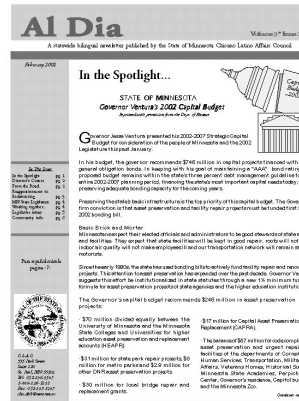
All issues of the *jEl Minnesotano!* newsletter are in PDF format and can be found on the CLAC website. The CLAC web page offers a link for viewers to download a free copy of the newsletter and Adobe Acrobat Reader. Also, *jEl Minnesotano!* provides a valuable gateway for all Minnesotanos, specifically non-Latinos, to become aware of the state's Latino community and the issues that afflict the community.

Through the *jEl Minnesotano!* newsletter, the CLAC informs the general public about the council's current activities and projects in the Latino community. Moreover, the CLAC encourages input from community members and readers regarding current policies, issues, and past and present goals of the council. The newsletter will also be used as a tool to disseminate information to support the efforts of community based organizations that service Latinos.

The *jEl Minnesotano!* newsletter is a quarterly publication by the CLAC and covers a series of topics regarding issues that are important to the Latino community on all platforms. Some of the topics that have been covered by the CLAC's former newsletter were topics such as: employment, taxes, civic duty, mental health, child abuse, legislative process, education, housing, Hispanic heritage, and migrant workers.

To receive an electronic copy of the *jEl Minnesotano!* newsletter, please forward all requests to clac.desk@state.mn.us or call us at the front desk at (651) 296-9587.

Al Día Newsletter, Past Issues

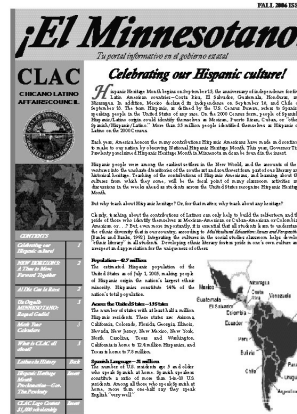


Year 2002

Year 2003

Year 2004

The New jEl Minnesotano! Newsletter



Fall Issue 2006

Performance Summary: Activities Since Last Report

COLLABORATIONS & WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

In order for government and the democratic process to work, it is important for the CLAC to build and foster working relationships with state agencies, local governments, and community organizations. One of the methods CLAC has achieved its goals in the past has been through collaboration with other entities of similar initiatives for the common good of the Minnesota's Latino community. The following organizations provide a quick glimpse of the CLAC's ongoing working relationships:

State

Minnesota Planning
 Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
 Minnesota Department of Economic Development
 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 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
 MN Department of Children Families and Learning
 League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions
 Office of the Ombudsperson for Spanish Speaking Families
 Minnesota Secretary of State
 The Council for Asian Pacific Minnesotans and the Council for Black Minnesotans.

City

City of Minneapolis
 City of St. Paul, Mayor's Office
 City of St. Paul, Department of Human Rights

County

Ramsey County Affirmative Action Programs
 Hennepin County

Community

La Mano (Mankato)
 Centro Campesino (Owatonna)
 Center for Rural Policy and Development
 Chicano Latinos Unidos en Servicio (CLUES)
 Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
 Latino Communications Network
 Riverview Economic Development Association
 La Escuelita
 La Oportunidad
 Centro Legal
 Oficina Legal
 Neighborhood Development Association
 Neighborhood House
 United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS)
 Hamline University Center for Excellence in Urban Teaching
 University of Minnesota Chicano Latino Studies
 League of Minnesota Women Voters
 The Jewish Community Relations Council for Minnesota and the Dakotas
 AHANA (Asian, Hispanic, African American and Native American) Council
 Racial Disparities In the Justice System Initiative
 Urban League
 National Council La Raza
 Immigrant and Refugee Policy Coalition



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Issues that Confront “Minnesotanos” – Minnesotan Latinos



Issues that Confront “Minnesotanos” ~ Minnesotan Latinos

EDUCATION

Minnesotans value the essence of a quality education at all levels. Moreover, education is a top priority for everyone regardless of party lines. On a national scale, Minnesota is seen as one of the country’s leading examples for excellence in public school education. However in the Latino community, education priorities have reached numerous obstacles and challenges. One of the Council’s main concerns for the state’s Latino youth is high school graduation rates; Latino students rank among the state’s minority group with the lowest high school completion rates.

Table 2 below shows the School districts where Latino enrollment equals or exceeds 10% (2005-2006)

School district	Percent Latino	School district	Percent Latino
St. James	37.2%	Austin	15.8%
Sleepy Eye	34.8%	South St. Paul	15.7%
Worthington	31.8%	Glenco-Silver Lake	15.6%
Madelia	29.3%	Lecenter	15.3%
Lynd	28.6%	Minneapolis	15.3%
Willmar	27.3%	Bird Island-Olivia-Lake Lillian	13.6%
Butterfield	23.7%	Buffalo Lake-Hector	13.2%
Richfield	23.3%	Albert Lea	13.1%
Pelican Rapids	21.6%	Warren-Alvarado-Oslo	13.0%
Sibley East	21.1%	St. Paul	12.5%
Climax	20.4%	Melrose	12.4%
Renville County West	20.4%	Mountain Lake	12.4%
Crookston	18.4%	Triton	11.9%
Long Prairie-Grey Eagle	17.4%	Brooklyn Center	11.8%
Faribault	17.3%	Heron Lake-Okabena	11.6%
Columbia Heights	15.9%	Shakopee	11.3%
West St. Paul-Mendota Heights.-Eagan	15.8%	Lesueur-Henderson	10.7%
		East Grand Forks	10.5%

For over 20 years, the state of Minnesota has experienced vast changes in its demographics with monumental increases of foreign born people; a great number which are Latinos come to Minnesota for work opportunities and bring their families. The children of these Latino workers, in many instances, arrive in the classrooms already behind and disadvantaged due to a list of various factors. Some of the critical issues and contributing factors that play a role in Latino students’ academic performance or decision to drop out of high school are as follows:

- Students have undocumented legal status in the United States or have parents or family members that are undocumented;
- The lack of opportunity after high school graduation with undocumented legal status;
- Students have a disadvantaged playing field in the classroom regarding language and cultural barriers;
- There is a lack of bilingual/bicultural teachers in many school districts that can play a significant role in student integration;
- Often times Latino students experience racial bias, discrimination, and bullying by class peers.

While high school graduation rates for Latino students have normally been low, some Minnesota high schools have seen a slight improvement since the 2002-2003 academic school year. However, the increase of Latino students completing a high school education has not been sufficient enough to raise the cohort from being the state’s minority with the highest drop out rate. Most of the Latino students that show a persistent disparity between minority and majority students are of Mexican ethnicity. Accordingly, among Latinos, Mexican-Americans are the least likely to have a high school diploma.*

Table 3 below shows the Hispanic/Latino graduation rates by district (2002- 2005)

School district	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Minneapolis	20.12%	23.74%	31.34%
South St. Paul	58.82%	66.67%	65.52%
Columbia Heights	60.00%	40.00%	60.00%

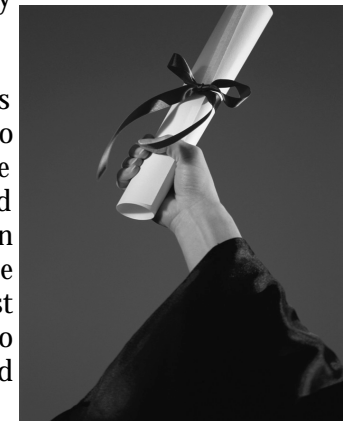
Issues that Confront “Minnesotanos” ~ Minnesotan Latinos

School district	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Sleepy Eye	75.00%	100.00%	75.00%
Mountain Lake	N/A	N/A	100.00%
West St. Paul- Mendota Heights- Eagan	85.71%	82.35%	79.17%
Albert Lea	69.70%	68.75%	51.85%
Richfield	53.33%	63.16%	15.48%
Brooklyn Center	75.00%	57.14%	33.33%
Heron Lake-Okabena	100.00%	100.00%	N/A
Willmar	50.91%	37.78%	53.06%
Lecenter	100.00%	100.00%	60.00%
Austin	63.16%	57.14%	55.56%
Worthington	50.00%	31.82%	63.16%
Pelican Rapids	42.86%	75.00%	69.57%
Climax	N/A	100.00%	N/A
Crookston	55.56%	52.94%	50.00%
East Grand Forks	62.50%	42.86%	50.00%
St. Paul	42.21%	55.48%	61.34%
Fairbault	28.57%	48.28%	48.00%
Shakopee	75.00%	61.11%	58.82%
Melrose	0.00%	N/A	100.00%
Butterfield	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Madelia	93.33%	60.00%	75.00%
St. James	43.75%	50.00%	52.94%
Triton	100.00%	100.00%	50.00%
Buffalo Lake-Hector	100.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Warren-Alvarado-Oslo	0.00%	100.00%	N/A
Sibley East	66.67%	100.00%	50.00%
Lesueur-Henderson	50.00%	57.14%	50.00%
Bird Island-Olivia-Lake Lillian	100.00%	50.00	100.00%
Long Prairie- Grey Eagle	100.00%	80.00%	60.00%
Glenco-Silver Lake	70.00%	63.64%	57.14%
Renville County West	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%

In an effort to examine the influence of growing Latino enrollment in Minnesota’s public schools, the CLAC and the Center for Rural Policy co-sponsored a report called, “*Latino Students in Our Public Schools: A Closer Look.*” The report indicates that while overall state enrollment in public schools has slowly declined, Minnesota has seen a substantial and rapid growth among Latino students. The disconcerting story behind this growth is that while Latinos are filling the enrollment gap in the state’s schools, they are also having the least amount of academic success, respectively. The study goes on to explore that possible causes of lower academic success begin quite early in the classroom. By the time a student reaches the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment exams in math and reading, the achievement gap between Latino and non-Latino students is already substantial.

Another noteworthy and contributing factor to lower performance among Minnesota’s Latino youth is a high degree of mobility. For some Latino students who routinely move out of Minnesota and/or of the United States during the school year, is adversely impacted by constantly moving. Both the study and community forums the CLAC has hosted reveal that students in rural areas move with their families for family and economic issues.

There is no easy way to counter these trends and reverse the low performance of Latino students in our public schools. Therefore, the CLAC is committed to seek more effective and inclusive methods to improve the education standards for Latinos and empower the community through education. We must increase our education investment in Latino students to secure and more economic and hopeful prosperity for Minnesota.



* Source: National Council of La Raza (August 2000). “U.S. Latino Children: A Status Report.”



Issues that Confront “Minnesotanos” ~ Minnesotan Latinos

HEALTH CARE ISSUES AND CONCERNS

All health care issues in the Latino community, such as high health care costs, disease, and illness continue to be the focus amongst the Council, community organizations, and health advocates at all levels of government. Additionally, cultural competency of health care practitioners and workers is a concern for the CLAC. As the demographics in Minnesota continue to change, minority populations from different backgrounds bring other ethnic and cultural beliefs regarding preventative health care and health in general. It is compulsory that the health community and professionals address such differences in order to educate minorities on health.

In the past years, reports and inquiries have indicated that there needs to be improvement in the health care service industry regarding the Latino population. Such areas of improvement are in preventative health, emergency, disease and immunization, and lack of seeking medical assistance.

Furthermore, other issues that have been addressed are as follows:



- Lack of employers to offer health insurance for part-time employees;
- Minimal cultural competency among health practitioners and professionals and the need for more bilingual services/speakers;
- Limited health care access and services for undocumented residents and members of their family.

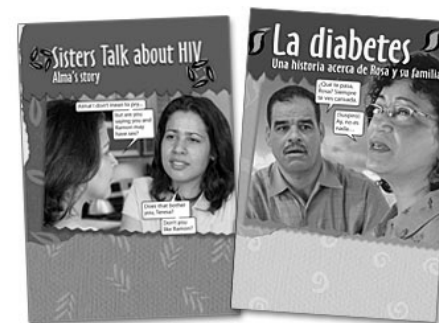
Latinos in Minnesota are also one of the groups affected mostly by the trends towards increasing segregation and concentrated poverty.

Moreover, Latinos are the group most likely to be uninsured when compared to other minority groups in the state.* There are several factors that contribute to the health status of Latinos in Minnesota. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, some of the issues currently facing the Latino community are:

- Injury and Violence
- AIDS/HIV
- Cardiovascular Diseases
- Diabetes
- Infant Mortality
- Immunization
- Breast and Cervical Cancer
- Teen Pregnancy



Research studies indicate that Latinos suffer a greater incidence of highly preventable diseases, such as AIDS, tuberculosis, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and breast and cervical cancer than other groups. Lastly, Latinos are more likely to succumb to no health care insurance, waive preventative medical care, or obtain public health education.



* Source: Minnesota Department of Health (May 2004). “Minnesota Department of Health Fact Sheet: Eliminating Disparities in the Health Status of Latinos in Minnesota.” Status Report.”



Issues that Confront “Minnesotanos” ~ Minnesotan Latinos



AFFORDABLE HOUSING & HOMEOWNERSHIP ISSUES FOR MINNESOTANOS

Affordable housing for Latinos in Minnesota is an ongoing challenge that continues to face the community both in the Twin Cities metro-area and in the greater part of the state. Owning a home for Latinos is no different. Indeed, it is a part of what we see as the American Dream: owning a home for Latinos is a primary tool to build wealth and family and contributes to more stability for a prosperous future.

For many years, the state of Minnesota has led the nation in the percentage of its residents who own homes. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, as of year-end 2002, Minnesota’s homeownership rate of 77 percent was the highest in the country. While this figure represents a 78 percent homeownership rate for whites, the homeownership rate for minorities in the state is only 41 percent.* It is also important to note that the 41 percent figure is all inclusive of minorities in the state.

There is no doubt that affordable housing is an issue. The lack of affordable housing for Latinos presents an arduous challenge and it can be attributed to the effects of employment. A substantial part of the Latino community is employed in low paying jobs throughout the state or do not have access to build other job promoting skills for higher paying jobs.

Some of the following are housing barriers and issues the CLAC has become aware of through civic engagement with Latino community leaders:

- Housing stock opportunities are unavailable, especially in rural Minnesota;
- Affordable housing that is available is often in poor condition or in areas of high crime and violence;
- There is still racial bias in some areas/communities of the state, particularly in rural areas;
- Adequate housing is needed for migratory farm worker and members of their family;

- The lack of homebuyer information, awareness, and preparation;
- The increase of unstable employment makes it difficult and causes a deterrent to taking on a mortgage or adequate housing.

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (2005). “Homeownership Initiative Targets Minnesota’s Emerging Markets.” 2005 Issue No. 2 – Community Dividend.

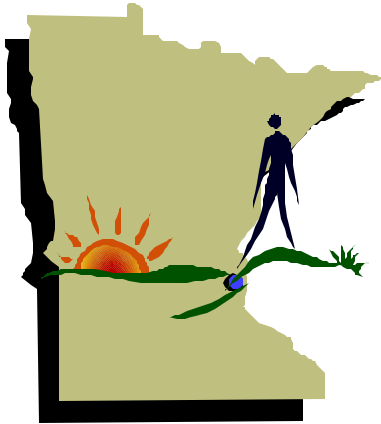
FACING ISSUES OF RACIAL PROFILING & STEREOTYPES

Racism and negative stereotypes are another systemic issue that confronts minority populations in Minnesota. The issue is no different for Latinos who continue to face prejudices in both the Twin Cities metro-area and greater Minnesota. Unfortunately, there have not been many inroads to deter these issues.

The CLAC has received several concerns from the Latino community that Latinos are generally viewed as outsiders in Minnesotan society. Moreover, some feel that the majority of the population in Minnesota solely think of Latinos as illegal immigrants even though most Latinos are U.S. born or have been in Minnesota for several generations.

In essence, negative stereotypes and racism discredits the bigger picture: Latinos’ contributions to the Minnesota economy and vibrant culture. Additionally, some have even voiced concern that specific state agencies and community organizations have established in-direct biased policies and practices. Also, the CLAC has become aware of some instances where community members believe they were pulled over or harassed by police and state troopers solely due to their race. Much distrust in the law enforcement and justice system exists among the Latino community as it relates to violence, youth, and crime.

Issues that Confront “Minnesotanos” ~ Minnesotan Latinos



IMMIGRATION LANDSCAPE IN MINNESOTA

In the last 30 years, several tens of thousands of immigrants have arrived in Minnesota. The new immigrant communities come from all over the globe and come for the same reason. That reason is no different than what attracted immigrants to the United States in the past: opportunity.

Immigration in Minnesota received much attention in 2005 when the issue became a national concern, especially for Midwestern states that have experienced growing numbers of immigrant communities from Latin America. There is no doubt the Latino community in Minnesota is plagued by immigration issues and concerns, and that the challenges to secure adequate documentation have extremely risen post-September 11, 2001.

Due to immigration issues in the state, many Latinos find it very difficult and expensive to begin any process of immigration to the United States. Some of the challenges the Latino community faces when seeking immigration assistance are high costs associated with citizenship, cultural sensitivity and language barriers, and the lack of immigration lawyers in rural areas. Other issues associated with immigration status that most Latinos face are access to local and state programs and services. The undocumented status of a person affects their eligibility to receive services that are received by a family member, friend, or neighbor who has proper documentation.

The Changing Face of America



Couple (African-American)



Norwegian Independence Day, Chicago 1907



Mexican-American women in the Southwest



Italian immigrant family at Ellis Island



Chinese-American children





Strategic Objectives for the Next Biennium



Strategic Objectives for the Next Biennium

The goal of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council is to champion Latino public affairs statewide and empower the community to become strong, visible, and self-sufficient members of society. While the next biennium already presents many challenges for the Council, the CLAC will proudly continue its work through strengthening and building partnerships, utilizing working collaborations in the community, and ensuring transparency and accountability in our work performance.

In January 2007, members of the CLAC board of directors and staff will meet for a special retreat to conduct strategic mapping and planning for the objectives in the next biennium. The intentions for the retreat are to explore and prioritize important issues facing the Latino community and how to execute them strategically through civic engagement and alliances. Moreover, the retreat will allow the Council to find other ways to better serve and represent Latino public affairs to the governor and state legislature.

The following topics, not in ranking order, are just some of the preliminary objectives the Council has begun to focus on for the next biennium:



Education

Education is undoubtedly a tool for empowerment and it is that tool that the Council will seek to champion for Latinos in Minnesota. The report co-sponsored by the Center for Rural Policy and Development and the

Council will be used as model to map the issue and present it to policy makers at the state legislature. The Council has begun to address the issue by newly establishing a CLAC Education Committee. The objectives for education in the next two year are:

- Target organizations and education experts and find ways to maximize resources and push for more positive, fundamental, and systemic change;
- Increase awareness of the dire needs and challenges that face Latino students;
- Promote more parental involvement and encourage parents to instill the values of education in their future;
- Continue to work and research enrollment patterns of Latino students statewide and school districts' response the increasing trend;
- Advocate for Hispanic higher education learning initiatives;
- Educate legislators on the importance of bilingual and culturally competent programs to ensure academic achievement and success;
- Improve the hiring and retention of teachers of color and bilingual teachers; and

- Strengthen partnerships with Hispanic national organizations, such as the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, and the National Council of La Raza.



Immigration

It is evident that immigration is a major concern in Minnesota and in the United States. In order to correct any shortcomings that might have inherently developed in current U.S. Immigration Policy, a comprehensive reform plan is needed. The CLAC supports a reform plan that meets and addresses the economic and social welfare of the state's immigrant communities and lives up to the promise of opportunity and value of equality in America. Additionally, the CLAC will continue to:

- Work with the state government and present current and accurate information on how immigration reform impacts Minnesota's Latino community;
- Build a Latino community of solidarity and instill credibility and faith in the democratic process;
- Educate the general public about the contributions that Latinos have made to Minnesota's economy, culture, and society;
- Enlighten the general community about Latinos' ancestry in Minnesota for generations dating back to 1860;

Strategic Objectives for the Next Biennium

- Promote awareness and understanding of common ground vital for a progressive Minnesota.



Housing Issues

Affordable housing and homeownership issues are another focus of interest for the Council in the following biennium. As previously indicated, owning a home for Latinos is part of what we as a community see as living the America Dream. It is a symbol of prosperity and family. With the help of community organizations already at the forefront of this issue, the Council will continue to:

- Promote the need for more bilingual homebuyer programs;
- Report any concerns and public inquiries of housing discrimination, favoritism, or bias that targets Latino people;
- Educate the state government on the barriers that Latinos face when applying for housing or homeownership;
- Advocate for adequate housing for migratory farm workers and members of their families;
- Advocate for safer housing options and opportunities in the metro area and greater Minnesota;
- Bring awareness of the lack of homebuyer information, awareness, and preparation.



Health

Latinos in Minnesota face the same health issues that other minority communities face. Such issues include affordable health care, preventative health, diet, immunization, and lack of seeking medical assistance. Additionally, another issue that Latinos face is culturally competent health care practices that have bilingual practitioners or practitioners culturally aware of the clientele. In an effort to increase more awareness on health issues, the CLAC will:

- Educate the Latino community on the importance of seeking health care when needed;
- Work with state agencies to ensure more cultural competent health care practitioners and workers in Latino communities;

- Serve as a conduit between the Latino community and Latino service providers;
- Assist with identifying the needs for medical and health care services to Latinos;
- Explore proven methods to help deter teenage pregnancy and the transmission of STDs and HIV;
- Maintain working relationships with state and community organizations that work on Latino health issues.



Economic Development

The Latino community's contribution to the state's economy and business development sector is plentiful and growing year after year, especially within the small business industry. The Council is hopeful that the state of Minnesota will continue to see this upward trend in business development and contribution to the state's growing surplus. In order to supplement the increases of Latino businesses state wide, the Council will continue to offer guidance and referral services to ensure economic successes. Additionally, the Council will:

- Bring awareness and educate Latinos on the methods of business development and training;
- Support the initiatives of community organizations, such as the Latino Economic Development Center, that are committed to help open and build Latino businesses;
- Engage other key economic players and supporters of business development, such as the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Wells Fargo, U.S. Bank, and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce;
- Continue to build our partnership with the Minnesota Small Business Assistance Office at the Department of Employment and Economic Development to ensure bilingual guides and material on how to start up a business in the state;
- Explore various methods to determine the needs of the Latino business community;
- Monitor the impact and contributions of Latino businesses to the state.



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Financial Summary: Receipts & Expenditures



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Financial Summary: Receipts & Expenditures

	FY 2005	FY 2006	Total
<u>Funding Sources</u>			
General Fund Appropriation	275,000	271,000	546,000
add bal fwd from prior year	57,153	26,626	83,779
less bal fwd to future year	(26,626)	(88,362)	(114,988)
Net General Fund	305,527	209,264	514, 791
Gift Receipts	213.16	357.22	570.38
add bal fwd from prior year	8,043.75	8,256.91	16,300.66
less bal fwd to future year	(8,256.91)	(8,614.13)	(16,871.04)
Net Gift Fund	0	0	0
Total Available Funding	305,527	209,264	514,791
<u>Expenditures (incl encumbrances)</u>			
Salaries and Benefits	242,389	162,348	404,737
Space Rental, Maintenance and Utilities	31,217	24,515	55,732
Repairs	0	1,988	1,988
Printing and Advertising	4,284	1,563	5,847
Prof/Tech Services- Outside Vendor	5,000	0	5,000
Computer & Sys Svs	50	50	100
Communications	7,097	4,226	11,323
Travel In-state	5,030	6,196	11,226
Travel Out-of-State	1,125	655	1,780
Supplies	2,252	4,131	6,383
Equipment	3,955	2,555	6,510
Employee Development	525	410	935
Other Operating Costs	163	627	790
State Agency Provided P/T Svs	2,440	0	2,440
Total Expenditures	305,527	209,264	514.791



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Appendix: Enabling Statute



Enabling Statute

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.

(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. submission to a federal agency or initial publication in the State Register.

Enabling Statute

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

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

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