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Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs

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<https://mn.gov/mcla/>

AT A GLANCE

The Council advises the office of the governor, the legislature, and government agencies on issues affecting Latino Minnesotans, informing, and involving our constituency on policy and legislation. The Council represents almost 346,000 Latinos in Minnesota, or 6.1 percent of the total state population. Approximately two-thirds are Minnesotans of Mexican descent, followed by Puerto Rican, Ecuadorian, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Colombian ancestries. The Council is comprised of 11 community board members and four legislative members. Board members and five FTE staff reflect the rich ethnic diversity rooted in Latin America and the Caribbean.

General State of the Minnesota Latino Community

Growth in the Latino population is significant. It has increased 26 percent since 2010, compared to 7.6 percent growth for the state. One-third of the Latino population lives in Greater Minnesota, primarily in southern and central Minnesota. About two-thirds of the Latino population is U.S. born; with 90 percent of children under 18 born in the United States. The median age of the Minnesota Latino population is 25 years old. Latinos have the highest labor force participation rate in Minnesota and their purchasing power is \$5.4 billion. Despite their contributions, Latino Minnesotans were disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Small businesses, agricultural workers, and low-income families – also affected by the digital divide in distance learning – were hit the hardest. Despite signs of economic recovery, disparities in overall wellbeing were exacerbated during the pandemic crisis and still prevail.

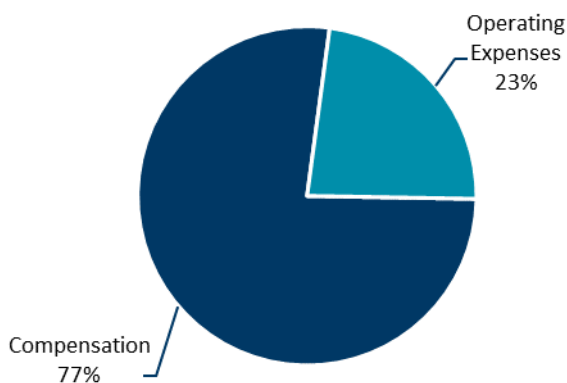
PURPOSE

Minnesota Statute 15.0145 states that the MCLA must work for the implementation of economic, social, legal, and political equality for its constituency. The council shall work with the legislature and governor to carry out this work by performing the following duties:

- Advise the governor and the legislature on issues of importance to the Latino community such as:
 - Administrative and legislative changes needed to improve Latinos’ economic and social condition
 - Implications and effect of proposed administrative and legislative changes
- Serve as a liaison between state government and organizations that serve the Latino community
- Design and/or execute studies designed to suggest solutions to the problems in the Latino community in the areas of education, employment, human rights, health, housing, social welfare, and other related areas.

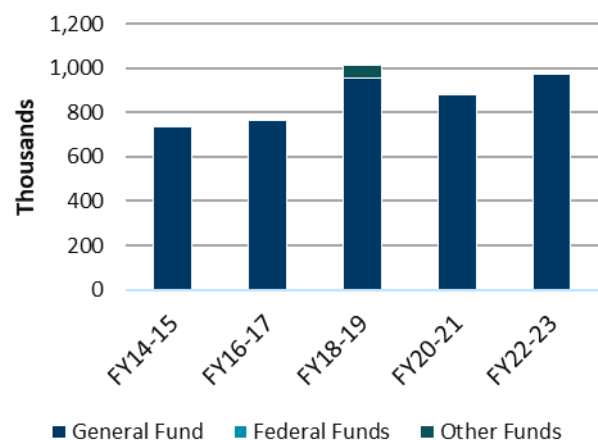
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 2023 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs activities are funded through general fund appropriations and, occasionally, by grants from Minnesota foundations. MCLA has a total FY 2024-25 biennial appropriation of \$1,344,000. This funding serves to cover expenses to operate MCLA’s office, which includes five full-time employees, contractors, and student workers that carry out the agency’s statutory requirements.

STRATEGIES

The Council delivers on its mandated mission by using the following key strategies:

Legislative and policy making process focused on four interconnected policy areas (lifelong learning, prosperity and financial stability, wellbeing, and belonging):

- Trusted source of information to the Governor’s office, legislature, and community.
- Draft, support, and monitor legislation derived from community input.
- Consult with legislators and state agencies.
- Provide research-based testimony, position statements, reports, and policy recommendations.
- Facilitate constituency input and participation in the legislative process.

Direct constituency communication

- Targeted meetings and conference calls with Latino-serving organizations statewide.
- Consistent and intentional use of bilingual social media and newsletters to inform and connect with constituency.
- Develop and publish in-house research reports.

Community engagement

- Plan, organize, and hold community listening sessions in Greater Minnesota and the metro area.
- Connect constituency with legislators, state program administrators, and other Latino-serving agencies.
- Collaborate in inter-agency and community efforts to address Latino Minnesotan needs through legislative and policy recommendations.
- Organize and collaborate with other organizations on legislative and policy forums and presentations.
- Attend community events, and partner in cultural and social gatherings to recognize Latino cultures.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Measure name	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
# of Bills Introduced by or drafted in collaboration with MCLA	Quantity	Bill Tracking Spreadsheet	2022: 6 2023: 17	2024: 9
% of Legislation Passed (introduced by or drafted in collaboration with MCLA)	Quality	Bill Tracking Spreadsheet	2022: 50% 2023: 100%	2024: 75%
# of Legislative testimony/position statements submitted	Result	Bill Tracking Spreadsheet	2022: 20 2023: 50	2024: 15

Measure name	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
# of state agency workgroups in which MCLA played an advisory role	Result	Monthly Staff Reports	2022: 6 2023: 11	2024: 11
# of community forums and listening sessions held	Quantity	Monthly Staff Reports	2022: 5 2023: 5	2024: 5
# of participants in forums and listening sessions held	Result	Surveys to participants and registered attendees	2022: 90 2023: 70	2024: 110
# of participants Latine Day at the Capitol	Quantity	Number of registered attendees	2023: 150	2024: 200
# of combined meetings with constituents and stakeholders, including legislators and policy makers	Quantity	Monthly staff Reports	2022: 305 2023: 406	2024: 300
# of constituents reached through annual combined social media and traditional communication, including newsletters	Quantity	Monthly staff reports Social media metrics GovDelivery metrics	2022: 40,000 2023: 45,000	2024: 45,000
# of in-house reports	Quantity	Monthly staff reports	2022: 4 2023: 4	2024: 4
# of MN Latino demographic fact sheets for state legislators	Quantity	Monthly staff reports	2022: 201	2024: 201
# of newsletters	Quantity	Govdelivery metrics	2022: 15 2023: 15	2024: 12
# of informational videos	Quantity	Monthly staff reports	2022: 1 2023: 6	2024: 5

Tracked activities are aimed at fulfilling the Council’s following statutory responsibilities:

- Legislation and Policy: Statute 15.0145, Subd. 6, Paragraphs A, C, D, & F
- Statewide Community Engagement: Statute 15.0145, Subd. 6, Paragraphs B & E
- Reports and Studies: Statute 15.0145, Subd. 6, Paragraphs B, E, & F

Legal Authority: Minn. Stat. § 15.0145 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=15.0145>) provides the legal authority for the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs.

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY22	Actual FY23	Actual FY24	Estimate FY25	Forecast Base FY26 FY27		Governor's Recommendation FY26 FY27	
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>								
1000 - General	438	533	527	817	681	681	693	705
Total	438	533	527	817	681	681	693	705
Biennial Change				374		18		54
Biennial % Change				39		1		4
Governor's Change from Base								36
Governor's % Change from Base								3

Expenditures by Program

Latino Affairs Council	438	533	527	817	681	681	693	705
Total	438	533	527	817	681	681	693	705

Expenditures by Category

Compensation	375	408	435	640	518	531	530	555
Operating Expenses	63	123	91	172	161	148	161	148
Other Financial Transaction	1	2	1	5	2	2	2	2
Total	438	533	527	817	681	681	693	705

Full-Time Equivalent

	3.91	4.38	3.94	5.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
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(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY22	Actual FY23	Actual FY24	Estimate FY25	Forecast Base FY26 FY27		Governor's Recommendation FY26 FY27	
1000 - General								
Balance Forward In		96		137				
Direct Appropriation	534	544	664	680	681	681	693	705
Transfers Out		30						
Cancellations		78						
Balance Forward Out	96		137					
Expenditures	438	533	527	817	681	681	693	705
Biennial Change in Expenditures				374		18		54
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				39		1		4
Governor's Change from Base								36
Governor's % Change from Base								3
Full-Time Equivalents	3.91	4.38	3.94	5.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00

2403 - Gift

Balance Forward In	11	11	11	12	13	14	13	14
Receipts	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Balance Forward Out	11	11	12	13	14	15	14	15

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	Biennium 2026-27
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2025 Appropriations	680	680	680	1,360
Base Adjustments				
Minnesota Paid Leave Allocation		1	1	2
Forecast Base	680	681	681	1,362
Change Items				
Operating Adjustment		12	24	36
Total Governor's Recommendations	680	693	705	1,398
Revenue Change Summary				
Dedicated				
Fund: 2403 - Gift				
Forecast Revenues	1	1	1	2
Total Governor's Recommendations	1	1	1	2

Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs

FY 2026-27 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: Operating Adjustment

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Fund				
Expenditures	12	24	24	24
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	12	24	24	24
FTEs	0	0	0	0

Recommendation:

The Governor recommends additional funding of \$12,000 in FY 2026 and \$24,000 in each subsequent year from the general fund to help address operating cost increases at the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs.

Rationale/Background:

The cost of operations rises each year due to increases in employer-paid health care contributions, FICA and Medicare, along with other salary and compensation-related costs. Other operating costs, like rent and lease, fuel and utilities, and IT and legal services also grow. This cost growth puts pressure on agency operating budgets that remain flat year to year.

Agencies face challenging decisions to manage these rising costs within existing budgets, while maintaining the services Minnesotans expect. From year to year, agencies find ways to become more efficient with existing resources. For FY 2026-27, agencies will need to continue to find additional efficiencies and leverage management tools to help address budget pressures. Holding open vacancies in certain programs or delaying hiring in other programs are examples of ways agencies manage through constrained operating budgets. Such decisions are difficult and must be weighed against a program’s ability to conduct business with less staffing and its impact to service delivery.

This recommendation provides additional resources to help address these cost pressures and pay for agency operations.

Proposal:

The Governor recommends increasing agency operating budgets to support current services. For the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs, this funding will help cover expected growth in employee compensation and insurance, IT services, and other operating costs.

Dollars in Thousands

Net Impact by Fund	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26-27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 28-29
General Fund	12	24	36	24	24	48
Total All Funds	12	24	36	24	24	48

Fund	Component Description	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26-27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 28-29
GF	Operating Costs	12	24	36	24	24	48

Results:

This recommendation is intended to help the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs address rising cost pressures and mitigate impacts to current levels of service and information to the public.