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# Chicano Latino Affairs Council

Biennium Report  
For Fiscal Year 2002-2004

*November 2004*

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Mexico

***CENTRAL  
AMERICA***  
Guatemala  
El Salvador  
Honduras  
Nicaragua  
Costa Rica  
Panama



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AMERICA***  
Colombia  
Venezuela  
Ecuador  
Peru  
Bolivia  
Chile  
Argentina  
Paraguay  
Uruguay  
Brazil

***CARIBBEAN***  
Puerto Rico, Cuba and Dominican  
Republic

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## Helping Minnesota Latinos Achieve Self-Sufficiency

The Board of Directors of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, its staff and myself are very pleased to present our Biennial Report for the Fiscal Year 2002-2004. In this report, we provide a brief description of the many activities, programs, projects and objectives that we have embarked during the last two years. A lot of hard work has made it possible for the Chicano Latino Affairs Council to accomplish many goals on behalf of the Chicano Latinos that reside in or come to work in Minnesota. While we are satisfied of all the work that was done, we are also aware that a lot of work needs to be done to solve the many issues that confront the Chicano Latino population. This report also provides some information as to what those issues are.

The Latino population in Minnesota continues to increase by leaps and bounds. Now, more than ever, the Chicano Latino Affairs Council needs to be present and bring the voice of Chicanos Latinos whenever the well-being and future of this community are at stake. We will continue to bring, not only the perspective of our community and the particular issues that we confront, but also propose solutions to address those concerns.

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

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

The staff of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council and myself look forward to another biennium of working with the community, the state government and all other stakeholders to improve the lives of our Latino brothers and sisters.

Ytmar Santiago  
Executive Director

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Board of Directors Profile

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

Elia Bruggeman—District 1

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

Omar Salas—District 2

Mr. Salas is a Diversity Recruitment Specialist with Fairview Health Services in Minneapolis, MN.

Luis Bartolomei, Esq. —District 3

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

Alexandra S. Nelson—District 4

Ms. Nelson is a Senior Loan Officer for a Mortgage Company in Mendota Heights, MN.

Edgardo Rodriguez—District 5

Mr. Rodriguez, an Certified Public accountant is currently retired.

Heladio F. Zavala — District 6

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

Ruben Mendez—District 7

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

Teresa Dawson—District 8

Ms. Dawson is a school librarian at Marshall School, Duluth, MN

Dr. Louis D. Gonzalez, PhD —At Large

Dr. Gonzalez is President of an Educational Consulting Firm in Minnetonka, MN.

House Representative Al Juhnke, District 13B (DFL)

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

House Representative Jeff Anderson, District 27B (R)

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

Senator Julie Rosen, District 24 (R)

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.

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

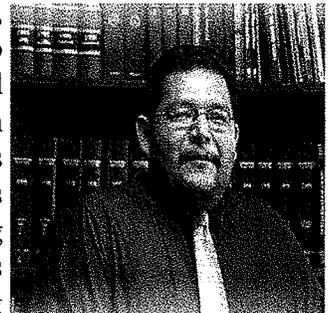
- Review and make recommendations to the governor and the legislature as to statutes or rules necessary to ensure that Chicano Latinos are well served in the state;
- Recommend legislation to improve the economic and social status of Chicano Latinos in the state;
- Serve as a conduit for state government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

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



Administrative Assistant Gladys B. Zelaya, 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 the "Al Día" newsletter, the Bilingual Directory, all brochures and reports.

Management Analyst Mario Hernandez works with state agencies, community organizations and local governments to bring the Latino perspective to their rulemaking and operations through the use of data and population needs versus population statistics. Mario is the face of CLAC in the Latino community. He also updates our Latino Web Profiles and works with a number of organizations in the Twin Cities on special projects regarding education, immigration and economic development, among others. In the office, Mario is the Team Leader. Mario also volunteers personal time to help Latino youth by mentoring children and directing their future towards higher education alternatives.



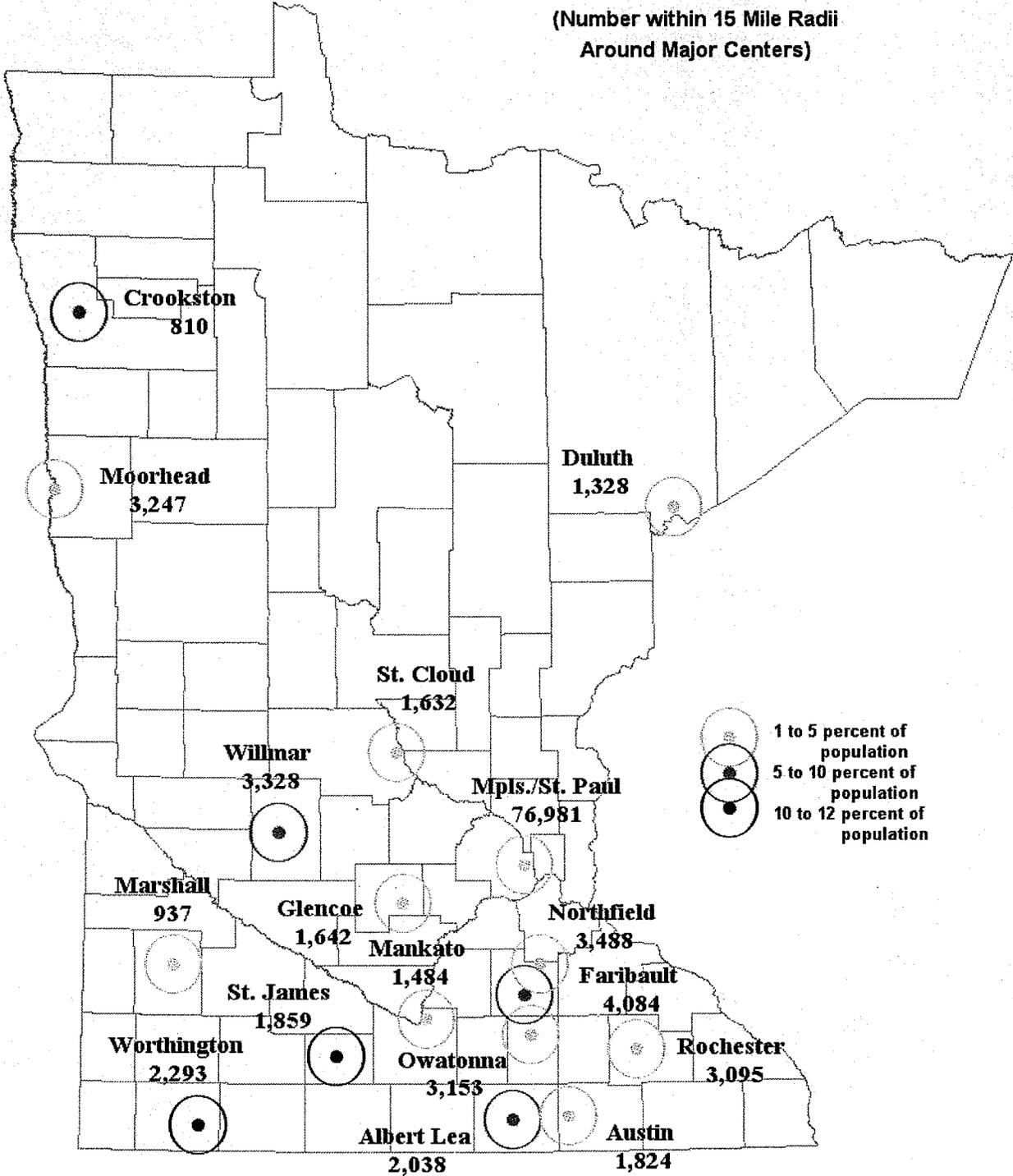
## A Demographic Look at Latinos in Minnesota

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

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

# Chicano/Latino Clusters

(Number within 15 Mile Radii  
Around Major Centers)



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



Summary of Activities Since Last Report

# Helping Minnesota Latinos Achieve Self-Sufficiency

## Education

- One of the CLAC's main goals continues to be helping to increase the graduation rate for Latino youth in the state of Minnesota. The statistics reflect that Latino children in the state have the lowest graduation rate of all minority groups. On 2003 we joined with the Citizens League for a series of efforts directed at improving the educational attainment of Latinos in the state. That effort is still ongoing.
- We continue our partnership with Hamline University's Center for Excellence in Urban Teaching and the Bremer Foundation in a program whose goal is to address the low graduation rate among our youth. The program consists on two separate modules, one that will address teachers and other members of the education profession in dealing with Latino children in school and another which is directed towards helping the parents assist both the school and their children towards achieving success in school. This excellent initiative is free for both the schools and the parents. The training will last between 40 weeks and two years depending on the school district, at the end of which Hamline University will make available a report that will show the progress of the children.
- We collaborated with the Citizens League on its Higher Education committee, which resulted in the report titled *Trouble on the Horizon: Growing Demands and Competition, Limited Resources, & Changing Demographics in Higher Education*. The report was the end product of countless hours of research and meetings by the more than 30 committee members, higher education professionals and the Citizens League's staff.
- The CLAC also continues to appear at career fairs to encourage the Latino youth to stay in school.

## Conference on Hispanics: "El Pueblo Hispano"

- In partnership with United Migrant Opportunity Services, the council continues to work in the all-encompassing Hispanic conference in Minnesota. "El Pueblo Hispano" (in English, Our Hispanic Town) with the collaboration of several state agencies as well, including, U.S.Housing and Urban Development, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Human Rights, Minnesota Department of Labor and Minnesota Department of Economic and Employment Development. This important bi-annual conference bring experts in the fields of education, health, workforce development, migrant labor, housing, economic development, mental health, civil rights, social justice, immigration and philanthropy to discuss best practices that can help the Hispanic community in Minnesota succeed. The conference also stresses the positive aspects of the Latino community in Minnesota and the United States. It is not only a celebration of our strenght as a community but also an in-depth discussion on the issues that affect our community and what we can do ourselves to improve the conditions of Latinos in the state. The conference, now in its planning stages is scheduled to be repeated on May of 2005.

# Helping Minnesota Latinos Achieve Self-Sufficiency

## Voter Education

- Always an important aspect of our development as a community and a step towards community integration in Minnesota, we did not forget the voter education initiative. During the months of August through November 2004, the council partnered with the League of Minnesota Women Voters in their voter education and registration campaign. We also helped distribute voting informational materials to Spanish-speaking voters.
- This past September, 2004, we assisted several community organizations and coalitions engaged in the Get Out The Vote efforts. The council provided these organizations with Latino census figures for legislative districts and precincts; provided key contacts in the Latino community; information on Latino media in Minnesota; and effective outreach strategies for working with the Latino community.

## Governor's Office

- We are actively involved with the Governor and his team in his Drive to Excellence in Government initiative. We also prepared worked as part of the team that received and coordinated the visit to Minnesota of the President of Mexico Vicente Fox this past June 2004.

## Homeland Security

- We continue to work closely with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in their efforts to reach out and educate the Latino immigrant community.
- In partnership with Ramsey County, we are working to improve the access to our community under the Ramsey County Homeland Security plan.

## Technology

- The Council continues to build its online presence in order to better reach and serve the Latino community and fellow state agencies. An online mailing list tool was developed for the Council's web site. The mailing list tool will allow the Council to maintain a database of advocates and community members informed about state legislative issues, Latino community events and Council activities. At the publication of this report, the project was in its final stages.

## Helping Minnesota Latinos Achieve Self-Sufficiency

### Building an Inclusive Community

From late 2002 until early 2004, the Council conducted presentations at almost twenty (20) conferences, local committees, state universities, and community groups. The presentations covered Latino demographic data, ideas for building inclusive communities and effective outreach strategies. In all, the presentations reached over 1,000 people.

### Other projects on behalf of the Chicano Latino Community

- Participate in the Department of Health's Latino Health Committee.
- Collaborate with Twin Cities Public Television in a series of public forums regarding the Latino community.
- Collaborate with the Minnesota Supreme Court in the Trust in the Judicial System endeavor.
- Continue to participate in seminars and forums throughout the state where we are required to participate and disseminate information about Minnesota Latinos.

### Additional statutory responsibilities

- The CLAC is mandated to publicize the accomplishments and contributions of the Chicano/Latino people in Minnesota. This past biennium, we completed a set of profiles of past and present Latino public officials. Titled "In the Spotlight: Past and Present Latino in Minnesota", it includes profiles of Latino(a)s elected to public office and appointed to high level state positions. Along with the profiles is a list of past and current elected Latino public officials from all corners of the state. Both the "List of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials", along with the set of profiles can be found on the Council's web site.
- We fulfilled our statutory mission of appointing board members to the Office of the Ombudsperson for Spanish Speaking Families.

# Helping Minnesota Latinos Achieve Self-Sufficiency

## Rural Minnesota

- Due to budget constraints, this past bienium we were not been able to conduct Regional Forums.
- We continue to participate in meetings and activities in the areas of rural Minnesota that have a high concentration of Latinos like: Willmar, Owatonna, St. James, Mankato, and Moorhead, among others.
- Some of these presentations included training on the legislative process, accessing state and private grants as well as helping new organizations connect with other more established Latino organizations in the state.
- The many contacts we maintain in rural Minnesota help us counteract somewhat the effects of the budget cuts and have provided us with a snapshot of the situation of Latinos in the rural communities. In consequence, we find that, as each community develops, not all Latino communities in Minnesota have the same priorities. This appears to be partly due to regional differences and the issues the regions as a whole may be facing. Later in this report we will delineate those issues that are facing the Hispanic community as perceived by the community.

## Migrant workers

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

## Helping Minnesota Latinos Achieve Self-Sufficiency

### Economic Development

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

### Research and Access to Latino Data

- The council created two more sets of demographic profiles using 2000 Census data. The two new sets complemented the sets created in 2002. In all, the sets include 350 profiles for geographic areas such as state, counties, cities and metro areas in Minnesota. This information is vital to anyone who wants to research and propose legislation in a specific area. The CLAC is the only place where you can find that information specifically directed to Latino population clusters in the state of Minnesota.
- We co-sponsored a Census Institute where nearly 50 community non-profits and advocates were trained on how to access demographic data online at the Census Bureau's American FactFinder website and the State Demographic Center's Data net.
- We successfully collaborated with several state organizations to produce maps of Latino demographic data. The organizations involved in the project included, the MN Department of Education, the Met Council, Region-9 Development Council and the Legislative Coordinating Commission's Geographic Information Services Office.
- All demographic data products are available online in our website, [www.clac.state.mn.us](http://www.clac.state.mn.us) .

### Leadership

- The council continues to play a part in developing leadership within the Latino community. We currently provide internship opportunities for students interested in public policy work and issues that affect Latinos in the state. We continue to pursue each and any leadership development opportunity that we can with the limited budget resources available.

## Helping Minnesota Latinos Achieve Self-Sufficiency

### Collaborations

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

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

# Helping Minnesota Latinos Achieve Self-Sufficiency

## Electronic Newsletter

The CLAC electronic newsletter is the Bi-monthly connection with the Hispanic community. All desktop publishing is done within the agency by the agency staff. The Al Día newsletter is a way for the CLAC to fulfill its mandate to act as a liaison between the state and the community and also to fulfill its information responsibilities. All issues of the Al Día are in PDF format. We provide a link to download a free copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader, including one version for visually impaired users.

**Chicano Latino**  
AFFAIRS COUNCIL

## **newsletter**



This newsletter also educates non-Latinos in every sector of the community about Latino issues. Through the Al Día, the Latino community is informed regarding recently passed laws and policies and procedures that impact our community, government programs that assist them and many other topics of interest to them.

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

## Bilingual Directory

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

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

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

Members of the community, as well as government agencies and legislators have indicated that they benefit greatly from our directory. The funds for publishing the directory come from private donations and the money we charge for postage and handling.



Issues and Concerns Facing the Hispanic Community

## Education

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

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

Although the rates of low school completion for Latinos have decreased somewhat, the percentage of Latino children who leave school without completion of a grade, is still the highest rate of all minorities in Minnesota.

- There continues to be a significant and persistent disparity between the proportion of Hispanics and other Americans who are high school graduates.
- Among Latinos, Mexican-Americans are the least likely to have a high school diploma.\*

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

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

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

### Health Care

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

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

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

### Affordable Housing

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

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

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

Other Issues That Affect Chicano-Latinos in Minnesota

These issues are also important when discussing the status of Latino in Minnesota. CLAC will continue to address these issues in the next biennium as well as when they are open for legislative action.

### Interpretive Services

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

### Community Integration

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

### Chemical Dependency and Mental Health

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

### Leadership Development

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

### Coordination of Services

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

### Immigration

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

### Racism and Stereotyping

Unfortunately, few inroads have been made regarding this issue. Latinos in Minnesota have expressed their concern that all Latinos are seen by the majority of the population as immigrants even though some are U.S. born or have been in Minnesota for a very long time. The wrong perception regarding Latinos overpowers the positive contributions Latinos have made to the state. Many members of the Hispanic community in Minnesota believe that many of the state's agencies and community organizations have biased policies and practices in place.

Objectives for the Next Biennium

The resources of the CLAC are very limited and our operating budget continues to be cut substantially due to the state's budget deficit. As mentioned, we are more effective when we can create collaborations with other organizations, either state government or private non-profits, that serve the needs of the Hispanic population in Minnesota. The needs are many, but CLAC will focus this next biennium in the following areas:

### Education

- Best practices that have been successful in keeping Latino children in school.
- Oversee the completion of a study and research commissioned to the Center for Rural Policy and Development regarding school completion data, funding sources and best practices in order to shed light on the reasons why Latino youth are dropping out of school before attaining their high school diploma and some solutions that can be implemented.
- Promotion and encouragement of Hispanic parents to place their children in pre-school programs and to instill in their children the values of a secondary education in their future.
- Promote legislation that is progressive and promotes bilingual or culturally competent programs directed towards the enhancement of the education of Hispanic youth.
- Explore alternative education methods for Latino children, such as, charter schools, culturally competent child care and day care.
- Work with rural schools that have a high concentration of Hispanics and high concentration of drop out of Hispanic youth.
- Work with state education agencies to improve the hiring and retention of teachers of color and bilingual teachers.
- Continue CLAC's internship program for college level students.

### Health

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

### Affordable Housing

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

### Economic Development

- Continue the work we started last biennium with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Wells Fargo Bank and other business development organizations to address the concerns of the community and the need for information on developing businesses.
- Ensure that business development organizations provide information and training to small Hispanic business throughout the state.
- Partner with existing business development agencies and business groups to study the needs of the Latino business community and assess the impact of Latino businesses in the state.

### Hispanic Leadership

- Continue our Internship Program which is a step in developing the leadership within the Latino community.
- Continue to collaborate with community leaders to determine how to address the need for leadership development within the Latino community.
- Maintain a resume bank that was started last biennium of Latino professionals and the areas of expertise that can be a resource for the governor, state departments and the private sector when there is an opening for jobs.

### Additional Ongoing Projects

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

List Receipts and Expenditures

Chicano-Latino Affairs Council

*Financial Report FY 2003-2004*

	FY 2003	FY 2004	Total
<u>Funding Sources</u>			
General Fund Appropriation	344,000	275,000	619,000
add bal fwd from prior year	36,808	67,250	104,058
less bal fwd to future year	(67,250)	(52,231)	(119,481)
* less cancellations/reductions	(32,998)	(5,000)	(37,998)
Net General Fund	280,560	285,019	565,579
Gift Receipts	339	248	587
add bal fwd from prior year	7,457	7,796	15,253
less bal fwd to future year	(7,796)	(8,044)	(15,840)
Net Gift Fund	0	0	0
<b>Total Available Funding</b>	<b>280,560</b>	<b>285,019</b>	<b>565,579</b>
<u>Expenditures (incl encumbrances)</u>			
Salaries and Benefits	205,625	214,008	419,633
Space Rental, Maintenance and Utilities	30,579	31,412	61,991
Repairs	0	341	341
Printing and Advertising	15,186	10,529	25,715
Prof/Tech Services-Outside Vendor	0	0	0
Computer & Sys Svs	1,143	50	1,193
Communications	7,607	6,302	13,909
Travel In-state	4,458	4,935	9,393
Travel Out-of-State	0	1,025	1,025
Supplies	1,466	986	2,452
Equipment	14,692	10,933	25,625
Employee Development	(363)	2,320	1,957
Other Operating Costs	167	178	345
State Agency Provided P/T Svs	0	2,000	2,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>280,560</b>	<b>285,019</b>	<b>565,579</b>

**Note:**

*\* Transfer to Dept of Finance Non-Operating account due to budget reduction imposed by Legislation and salaries as a result of the hiring freeze implemented at that time.*

# Appendix

3.9223 Council on affairs of Chicano/Latino people.

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

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

Subd. 3. Duties. The council shall:

- (1) advise the governor and the legislature on the nature of the issues confronting Chicano/Latino people in this state, including the unique problems encountered by Chicano/Latino migrant agricultural workers;
- (2) advise the governor and the legislature on statutes or rules necessary to ensure Chicano/Latino people access to benefits and services provided to people in this state;
- (3) recommend to the governor and the legislature legislation to improve the economic and social condition of Chicano/Latino people in this state;
- (4) serve as a conduit to state government for organizations of Chicano/Latino people in the state;
- (5) serve as a referral agency to assist Chicano/Latino people to secure access to state agencies and programs;
- (6) serve as a liaison with the federal government, local government units, and private organizations on matters relating to the Chicano/Latino people of this state;
- (7) perform or contract for the performance of studies designed to suggest solutions to problems of Chicano/Latino people in the areas of education, employment, human rights, health, housing, social welfare, and other related programs;
- (8) implement programs designed to solve problems of Chicano/Latino people when authorized by other statute, rule, or order; and
- (9) publicize the accomplishments of Chicano/Latino people and their contributions to this state.

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

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

The council shall appoint an executive director who is experienced in administrative activities and familiar with the problems and needs of Chicano/Latino people. The council may delegate to the executive director powers and duties under this section that do not require council approval. The executive director and council staff serve in the unclassified service.

The executive director may be removed at any time by a majority vote of the entire council. The executive director shall recommend to the council the appropriate staffing necessary to carry out its duties. The commissioner of administration shall provide the council with necessary administrative services.

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

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

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

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