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Chicano Latino Affairs Council

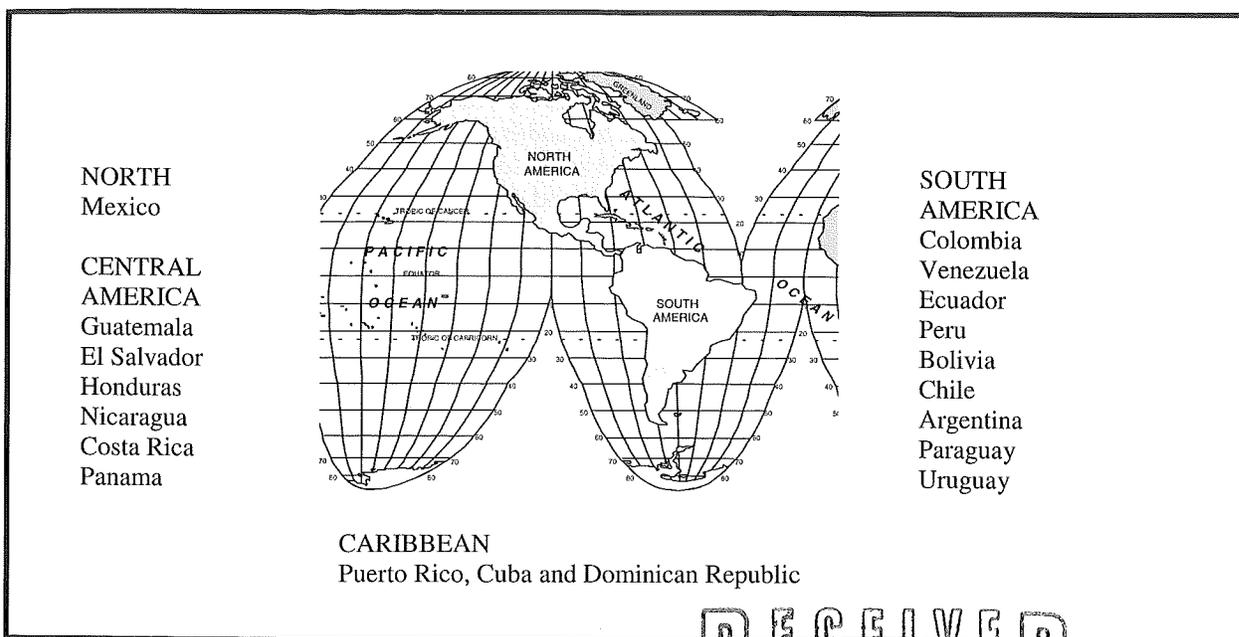
Biennium Report
For Fiscal Year 1999-2000

November 2000

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Chicano Latino Affairs Council



NORTH
Mexico

CENTRAL
AMERICA
Guatemala
El Salvador
Honduras
Nicaragua
Costa Rica
Panama

SOUTH
AMERICA
Colombia
Venezuela
Ecuador
Peru
Bolivia
Chile
Argentina
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Minnesota Hispanics Move Into the New Millennium

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC) presents this Biennial report for fiscal years 1999-2000 to the governor and members of the state legislature. The CLAC's board of directors wishes to thank all individuals involved in the initiatives and work that the CLAC has undertaken during the past two years. As the chair, along with the board, for the past year, we have encountered several difficulties that needed immediate attention. During this time, the CLAC acted fast to correct them prudently and diligently, with accountability.

The CLAC has taken significant steps to better inform the community about government and other issues. The following are some of the major accomplishments:

- ◆ The CLAC's executive director is a featured columnist on a Hispanic community newspaper, providing information on how the Minnesota government and legislature works and functions.
- ◆ The CLAC's executive director is also a featured community columnist in a rural newspaper. This is an important media to educate Minnesota about Hispanics and their issues.
- ◆ In the past year, the CLAC took significant steps directed towards informing the Hispanics community on voter registration, having several candidate forums, where the community was able to meet candidates themselves and pose their own questions.
- ◆ The CLAC held several meetings to develop a strategic plan for the agency.
- ◆ The CLAC hosted several community forums throughout Minnesota and presented several issues to the Hispanic community. The community itself was asked to provide issues of their concern. The findings and recommendations have been compiled in a report, which is available from the CLAC. Those issues are also presented in this report.
- ◆ The CLAC staff has taken prudent steps to ensure accountability in the administration of the agency.
- ◆ The composition of the board of directors has changed. The CLAC is composed of community persons with a strong professional background, which adds another dimension to the agency.

As the CLAC assesses its strengths and the areas where it can better serve to assist the governor and the legislature, the agency will continue to hold community forums and modify the strategic plan to meet the needs of our community. In this report, we outlined the major accomplishments and identified current issues and concerns, with a strategic plan of action that will guide the CLAC's work and effort for the next two years.

The biggest challenge that lays ahead both for the state and the CLAC is the ever increasing influx of Hispanics that work and live in Minnesota, meeting a lot of the state's labor shortage. The state's diverse population is increasing. We, as an agency must be conscious of the educational challenges these new immigrants bring to the state government and the legislature, and the impact of new population needs that are being confronted in rural communities.

As a community, Hispanics are contributing members of this state. As professionals, business owners, career conscious persons, educators, laborers, students, and community members, the Hispanic community, works hard to make our environment and community a better place. The Hispanic community is ever growing and affecting how business is done in Minnesota, as well as in all the United States. In the next 25 years, about 1 in 22 Hispanic adults will be the majority owner of a small business. This is an important fact that cannot be ignored, it must be enhanced. In addition, as Hispanic youth continue to grow at an advanced rate, their educational needs must be addressed to ensure their prosperity, to foster and promote leadership in the Hispanic community and the rest of the state.

The CLAC and the Hispanic community's success is contingent upon the active involvement of every member of our community working together with the state. The CLAC's board of directors looks forward to working with you to ensure the development of economic success and the shared responsibility of objectives and vision for the prosperity of the state of Minnesota.

Heladio F. Zavala
Chairman

Towards a Brighter Future



The staff of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council and myself are very pleased to present our Biennial Report for the Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000. We have provided 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. We will provide some information as to what those issues are.

As we all know, the Chicano Latino population is the ethnic group with the highest growth in the United States and in Minnesota. Now, more than ever, the Chicano Latino Affairs Council needs to be present and bring the voice of Chicano Latinos whenever the well being and future of this community are at stake. We will continue to bring, not only the perspective of our community and the particular issues that we confront, but also 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, economic development, immigration, welfare reform, education, housing, racial profiling and human rights, among many others. We continue 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. Even though we have come far, a lot remains to be done, and the Chicano Latino Affairs Council will be present and will continue its commitment to the betterment of the community.

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 towards a brighter future for our community.

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

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

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

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

The CLAC consists of an thirteen member board of directors, eleven of which are members of the Chicano Latino community and two of which are legislators. Of the eleven community members, there is a representative for each of the state's eight congressional districts. There are also three At Large community representatives.

All community members are appointed by the governor of Minnesota and they provide a voice in all levels of government for the approximately 138,000 Chicano Latinos who reside in the state of Minnesota as well as the approximately 20,000 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 Chicano Latino Affairs Council board of director's which consist of eleven community members, one state representative and one state senator. The community is divided into 8 districts which cover the whole state. There are three members that are at-large. The current members of the board are:

Heladio F. Zavala, Chair— At Large

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

Dr. William J. Diaz, Vice-chair— District 4

Dr. Diaz is a professor at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Minneapolis, MN.

Sally Anaya-Boyer, Secretary— District 6

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

Diana Olvedo-Muñoz, Treasurer— District 2

Ms. Olvedo-Muñoz is the Executive Director of the Multicultural Resource Center in Mankato, MN.

Claudia Saavedra—At Large

Ms. Saavedra is an associate attorney with the Dorsey and Whitney Law Firm in Minneapolis, MN.

Rafael Saldaña—At Large

Mr. Saldaña is the General Manager and VicePresident of Hispanic Business at Fingerhut, Plymouth, MN.

M. Vicky Olivo—District 1

Ms. Olivo is an enforcement and Hispanic community liaison officer with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, St. Paul, MN.

Juan Rivas—District 3

Mr. Rivas is a Human Resource consultant with McDonald's Corporation, Bloomington, MN.

Oliver Zaragoza—District 5

Mr. Zaragoza is an employee of the United States Postal Service in Minneapolis, MN.

Ruben Mendez—District 7

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

Ricardo Acevedo—District 8

Mr. Acevedo is the assistant district manager for the Social Security Administration in Duluth, MN.

State Representative Al Juhnke

Representative Juhnke is one of the two legislators appointed to the board.

State Senator Dean Johnson

Senator Johnson is one of the two legislators appointed to the board.

Minnesota Statutes, Section 3.9223, 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:

- 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;
- Perform oversee the performance of studies designed to accurately depict the situation of Chicano Latinos in the state with the goal of suggesting solutions to those issues, especially in the areas of education, housing, economic development, health, human rights, social welfare and related matters;
- Implement programs designed to solve the problems of Chicano Latinos when authorized to do so by statute, rule or order.

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

Administrative assistant Nora Burgos, who performs financial oversight in conjunction with the Department of Administration Financial Management and Reporting staff, to ensure 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 Greater Minnesota community liaison.

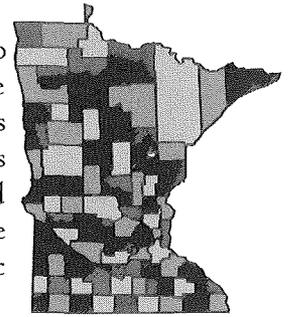


Office specialist Gladys Zelaya, who performs general clerical duties as well as the functions of receptionist. She also does all the design and desktop publishing of the CLAC's "Al Dia" newsletter, all brochures and reports.

The Greater Minnesota community liaison Mario Hernandez works throughout the state reaching out not only Chicano Latinos in all communities but also local governments and organizations that serve Chicano Latinos in Greater Minnesota. He also works with a number of organizations in the Twin Cities in special projects like the Census, immigration and education, among others.



Like all other ethnic groups that have chosen Minnesota as their home, Chicano Latinos have enriched the diversity of the state. Seasonal farm workers provide the manual labor necessary to grow and harvest the produce we consume as well as prepare the foods in packing plants and provide the support necessary for the state's service industry, including the airport, restaurants and hotels. Second and third generation Chicano Latinos, many of them American born, have become professionals, executives and high level managers both in the private and public sectors.



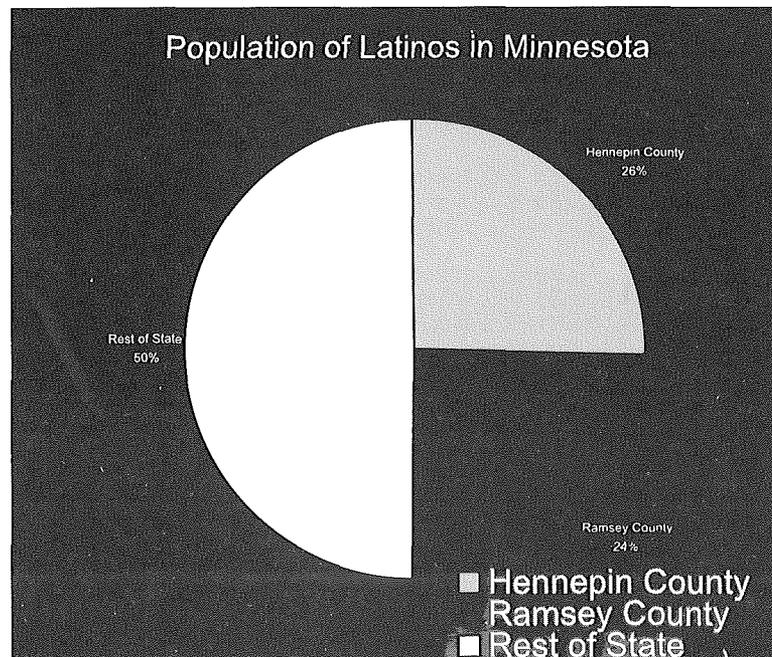
According to U.S. Census, it is estimated that Minnesota is the home of more than 130,000 Hispanics. After the 2000 Census figures are released, that number may increase substantially. The U.S. Census has issued population projections that present a snapshot of the way Minnesota's ethnic configuration has changed since 1995 and how it is expected to change. For Hispanics the numbers issued by the Census are:

MINNESOTA - Projected State Populations by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1995-2025 *

Hispanic	July 1, 1995	July 1, 2000	July 1, 2005	July 1, 2015	July 1, 2025
TOTAL	73,000	132,300	169,100	241,800	296,000
females	35,000	46,000	55,000	74,000	96,000

* Figures taken from U.S. Census reports. Projections are based on assumptions about future demographic trends.

The 1998 Census estimates place Hispanics almost evenly divided among Hennepin (21,621) and Ramsey counties (20,615), with the rest of the Hispanic population (42,236) located in the rest of the state.



In 1990, Chicano Latinos were 1.23% of Minnesota's population. Between 1990 and 1998, Chicano Latinos accounted for 9.45% of Minnesota's total population increase, which represent a 61.33 % change versus the total population growth of the state of 7.99%.

The school enrollment data collected also is very demonstrative of the incredible growth in Latino student enrollment. This data is particularly significant in that it proves that the Hispanic community is not concentrated in the Metro Area but has consistently grown all over the state. The Hispanic school enrollment in 27 rural Minnesota school districts reflects the change in Minnesota demographics.

Growth in Latino Student Enrollment in 27 Rural MN Student Districts*

City growth	Number of Latino students in school district (1990)	Number of Latino students in school district (2000)	Percent
Willmar	373	808	116.6%
Moorhead	220	486	120.9%
Worthington	53	455	758.5%
Albert Lea	269	417	55.0%
Faribault	56	370	560.7%
Rochester	93	302	224.7%
St. James	90	269	198.9%
Austin	36	239	563.9%
Crookston	126	237	88.1%
Glencoe	23	228	891.3%
East Grand Forks	244	218	-10.6%
Owatonna	63	198	214.3%
Pelican Rapids	22	191	768.2%
Marshall	43	155	260.5%
Mankato	64	148	131.3%
LeSueur	2	140	6900.0%
Madelia	69	139	101.5%
Sleepy Eye	19	129	578.9%
Olivia	5	128	2460.0%
Duluth	99	127	28.3%
Northfield	16	125	681.2%
Blue Earth	36	102	183.3%
Waseca	15	94	526.7%
Long Prairie	2	72	3500.0%
Le Center	1	63	6200.0%
Mountain Lake	13	47	261.5%
Montgomery	11	40	263.6%
Total for 27 schools districts	2,063	5,927	187.3%
<u>For comparison purposes</u>			
Minneapolis	784	3756	379.1%
St. Paul	1973	4123	109.0%
Total	2757	7879	185.8%

*Source of enrollment data: DCFL

Summary of Activities Since Last Report

- Section I - Community Development: lists all major activities that the CLAC has conducted during this past biennium with the goal of assisting the Latino community in Minnesota in learning about state government, participating in legislative and government matters and growing to be a contributing partner in our society.
- Section II - Community Involvement: brief summary of all major activities that the CLAC has organized and participated in, with the goal of involving the Hispanic community in the legislative, political and social progress of our state. We have also included those activities that the CLAC performs in which we educate the community in regards to issues that are current and affect all Minnesota.
- Section III - Community Resource: lists those major activities in which the CLAC fulfilled its statutory duty of being a referral and resource agency to the Chicano Latinos in the state of Minnesota.

I. Community Development

Voter Education

- The CLAC has been actively involved with the Chicano Latino community in developing community leadership and political awareness.
- During the past year, the CLAC has partnered with the League of Women Voters of Minnesota as well as Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans and the Office of the Secretary of State to bring information to the Chicano Latino community regarding the electoral process, voter registration, voter participation and political involvement.
- For the first time in the history of our community in Minnesota, the candidates for United States Congress and United States Senate met with the Chicano Latino community in a series of forums organized and hosted by the CLAC. The CLAC partnered with the Hispanic media, the Hispanic business community and the Secretary of State to bring the Latino community and the candidates together. The forums, which were scheduled in celebration of the Hispanic Heritage Month (September) were a complete success and the feedback from the community was very positive.

Census Awareness and Participation

- Due to the importance of an accurate count during the 2000 U.S. Census, the CLAC actively participated in educating the Hispanic community and creating an awareness as to the importance of being counted.
- The CLAC was a member of the Hispanic Complete Count Committee and worked with many community based organization, churches and city governments as well as with the State of Minnesota Planning in many projects directed towards full and complete Census participation.
- The CLAC staff attended community forums, radio and television programs in Spanish and published many articles and pieces of information in the local printed media in both Spanish and English.

Economic Development

- One of the major areas of interest to Governor Ventura is economic development and self sufficiency. The CLAC has been actively involved in gathering information and data for the Governor's Working Group on Minority Businesses.
- We have also co-sponsored events like the Hispanic Marketing Conference and supported the creation of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Minnesota.

II. Community Involvement

Human Rights and Equal Employment Opportunities

- The CLAC participates in a number of forums and activities where an awareness is created regarding the diversity of the state and the respect that each community is entitled to.
- The CLAC participated in the Racial Profiling Task Force, a group that met to determine whether the state should collect racial profiling data. This Task Force prepared a report with recommendations to the state legislature and the CLAC was an integral part of that group.
- We have also participated consistently with the League of Minnesota Human Rights in forums held throughout the state to help communities adapt to the changing demographics.
- We participated in the Criminal Justice Institute and provided information on race, racial relations and the law.
- The CLAC worked with the United States Office of Equal Employment Opportunities Commission to bring information to Latino communities in Greater Minnesota about their rights and responsibilities.
- As part of the Statewide Affirmative Action Council, we are working with the MN Department of Employee Relations to ensure that Latinos have equal access to employment opportunities, retention and promotion in state jobs.

Regional Forums

- During the Summer of 2000, the CLAC conducted the Regional Community Forums and Government Input Project in order to get an understanding of issues Latinos are facing throughout Minnesota.
- The project had two components. The Government Survey, sent to all 201 state legislators, the Governor's Office, and other key state government agencies in the Governor's Administration and the Regional Community Forums.
- The goal of the government survey was to gather information as to what type of information state government policy makers would like to know about Latinos in Minnesota.
- The Regional Community Forums were conducted throughout the state in those areas where there is a high concentration of Hispanics.
- The CLAC received a total of 38 completed surveys from various state policy makers and according to the tabulation, the most needed information is demographic data and community issues.
- The regional forums were held in Mankato, Worthington, Owatonna, Willmar, Minneapolis, Duluth, Moorhead, and St. Paul. The forums were very informative, not only to the CLAC but to the communities as well because the CLAC used them as a tool to inform the community of some of the issues the CLAC has considered focusing on during fiscal years 2002-2003.
- As a result of the forums the CLAC found out that not all Latino communities in Minnesota have the same priorities. This appeared 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.

II. Community Involvement

Voter Participation

- As part of the voter education activities that the CLAC had during the election year, two stand out as very informative and productive.
- The first were a series of debates and voter education-registration activities that the CLAC had along with the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans and the Minnesota League of Women Voters.
- These debates were among candidates for different seats in the Minnesota Legislature. The CLAC also provided with translation devices so people who are not fluent in English could understand the debates. The devices were used to translate from English to Spanish and Hmong. The League absorbed the cost of interpreters.
- The other important event was the "Conversations with the Latino Community" forums. The CLAC chose to invite the candidates to U.S. Congress and the U.S. Senate because there is a big concern in the Hispanic community regarding federal issues such as immigration and naturalization, minimum wage and federal aid to students of immigrants.
- We had three forums: Congressional District 2 (Willmar area), Congressional District 4 (Saint Paul), and U.S. Senate (Minneapolis). The forums were very well attended and the community participated actively in asking questions about the issues that concern Latinos. The CLAC worked in partnership with Hispanic media and the Office of the Secretary of State.

Rural Network Group

- The CLAC has established a rural regional network in the Moorhead area which brings together a group of Latino service providers regularly.
- This group serves as a link in the region and helps assess the needs of the Latinos in the area that require services from the agencies that are members of the group. The group, with the facilitation of the CLAC, has met not only to discuss issues that affect Latinos but also to learn about the legislative process, voting rights, and, the 2000 Census activities.
- The CLAC gave also presentations at the Chicano, Latino Mexicano Symposium in Mankato and the Hispanic Unity Conference in Moorhead.
- These annual events gather all the community members and community leaders of these regions to discuss the issues affecting Latinos in Greater Minnesota and to suggest and also provide solutions to those problems.
- As part of the Minnesota Rural Partners, the CLAC is also involved in the planning of the Annual Minnesota Rural Summit.

II. Community Involvement

Census 2000

- The CLAC had an active role in educating the community and ensuring participation in the Census 2000 count.
- In partnership with a public television station, the CLAC produced a television program in Spanish explaining the Census 2000 activities and the importance of being counted. The program was sent to over 20 public access television studios in Minnesota and was aired regularly during public broadcasting segments.

Migrant workers in Greater Minnesota

- The CLAC has worked hard to stay informed about and involved with Minnesota Hispanic migrant workers.
- 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.
- The CLAC has been present assisting these farm workers in situations like, visiting with migrant families during parent-teacher meetings held at a school for migrant children, meeting with members of advocacy groups like the Centro Campesino and the Plainview Migrant Committee to assist in ways that help migrant workers integrate to the communities.
- The CLAC has also participates as 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 to students about Latinos to the general public and also in presentations in Greater Minnesota directed towards Latino students.
- We also participate in presentations in state colleges and universities regarding Latinos in the rural areas and how their situation compares to that of Latinos in the Metro area.
- During this last biennium, the CLAC has met and participated in activities with over 200 Latino community leaders in Greater Minnesota in addition to community officials, organizations, school officials, clergy and youth.

III. Community Resource

Economic Development

- The CLAC is a sponsoring member of the newly formed Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Minnesota. The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will work together with the CLAC in a series of projects intended to create an awareness and educate the Latino community regarding business development. The CLAC's goal is to bring the Latinos in Greater Minnesota together with the Chamber for networking and information.

Research

- One of the things that government officials and legislators who responded to the CLAC survey say they need the most in data about the Hispanic community in Minnesota.
- The CLAC has partnered with Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research as well as the Center for Rural Policy of the University of Minnesota-Mankato in several research projects that have generated and will continue to generate reports about the status of Hispanics in the state. Currently, the CLAC is collaborating with these research organizations in several projects.

State Government Agencies

- The CLAC reviews all proposed rules and regulations that are submitted by state government agencies and which may have an impact in the state's minority populations.
- This past biennium, the CLAC has participated, along with the Department of Trade, in preparing the Governor's trade mission to Mexico, which occurred in October 2000.
- The CLAC has participated actively in the following activities/groups:
 1. The Department of Employee Relation's State's Affirmative Action Council,
 2. The Department of Corrections' Community Preservation Board,
 3. The STAR Program,
 4. The University of Minnesota Extension Service Community Outreach,
 5. Ramsey County Action Programs,
 6. The MN Legislature's Racial Profiling Task Force,
 7. The Department of Human Services' Bias Panel
 8. The Department of Human Services Advisory Committee on Welfare Reform,
 9. The Minnesota Pollution Control Environmental Impact Group,
 10. The Immigration and Naturalization Services Community Roundtable
 11. Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's minority housing efforts
 12. Legislative 30/50 Committee on affordable housing
 13. Ramsey County Corrections, among many others.

III. Community Resource

Al Dia Newsletter



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

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

Through the Al Dia newsletter, the CLAC informs the public about its activities and encourages the input from readers regarding the past and future goals of the CLAC. Many community based organizations that service Latinos reach out to the Al Dia as a tool to disseminate information that will be of assistance to the community. Each month, the Al Dia has 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: legislation, civic duty, taxes, family, employment, housing, education, health, migrant workers, Census 2000, economic development and law enforcement.

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 came from private donations.

III. Community Resource

Referrals

The CLAC provides referrals to the community at large as well as provides information to government agencies as requested concerning community based organizations that assist Hispanics. The CLAC also connects individuals with community based organizations and government when requested by members of the Latino community. On average, the CLAC receives eight to ten such requests for referrals per day.

Workshops and Presentations

Maple Grove Human Rights Panel

September 7 and 8, 1999

Panel discussion and training to local law enforcement agencies about the Latino culture and their perceptions of law enforcement personnel.

Immigrant Employment Issues

September 9, 1999

Panel discussion on issues that affect immigrants in their employment and cultural differences among Hispanics.

Hate Bias and Cultural Issues Panel

September 14, 1999

Training and panel discussion for the Lino Lakes Police Department on hate bias and the Latino perspective.

Latino Non-profit Focus Group

December 9, 1999

Conducted a focus group of Latino nonprofits for the National Funder's Collaborative for Strong Latino Communities, and the National Economic Development and Law Center, Oakland, California. The purpose was to gather regional detail and to expand national data regarding relations with funders, competition for funding, efficiency in the grant process and perceptions of equity. The information gathering was geared towards building arguments in favor of a national Hispanic focused grant making strategy.

UMOS Housing Partnership

January 12, 2000

Member along with several organizations dedicated to provide affordable housing for Hispanics. The purpose of the partnership is to assist Hispanics in obtaining housing in Minnesota.

Department of Human Services Advisory Committee on Welfare Reform

January 26, 2000

Participant and active member in bringing the Latino perspective to welfare reform issues.

2000 for 2000 Voter Registration Initiative

February 21, 2000

Together with the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans and the Council on Black Minnesotans, launched our 2000 voter registration campaign with a goal of registering 2000 new minority voters for the election.

Community Resource

Workshops and Presentations

Get Counted: Census 2000 live radio program

February 26, 2000

Informational public forum for a Spanish radio station to educate about the importance of an accurate count for the Latino community.

The Hispanic Culture

March 22, 2000

Presentation for Ramsey County Community Corrections Parole Unit on the issues that affect the Hispanic community as well as the cultural differences within the community.

Department of Human Services Bias Panel

April 14, 2000

Participated in a panel discussion about bias, the effects on our communities and what a community and the government can do to eliminate racial tensions.

Wilder Foundation's New Americans Partnership

May 8, 2000

Panel discussion about economic development among recent immigrants and what can the community do to assist in their integration to our society.

Columnist: Nuestra Gente community newspaper

Weekly, every Thursday

Informational column in a Spanish newspaper of free distribution in Minnesota.

Columnist: St. Cloud Times

Once a month, third Thursday

Opinion column in a regional newspaper in Greater Minnesota.

Editorial Review Committee: La Prensa de Minnesota newspaper

Once every three months

Review and give input to the editors of a Twin Cities newspaper regarding the way they report the issues that affect the Hispanic community.

Racial Profiling Task Force

July to September 2000

Member and active participant of the task force that was organized by Representative Rick Stanek to study whether the state of Minnesota should collect data on the race/ethnicity of people stopped by law enforcement officers during routine traffic stops. The group produced a report that will be forwarded to the legislature and which contains specific recommendations.

Homeless Youth Forum

October 20, 2000

Facilitator and participant along with the Homeless Youth Task Force members in a forum that addressed the issue of homelessness among youth in Minnesota, including minority youth.

III. Community Resource

Advisory Boards and Panels

Attorney General's Gang Strike Force

The GSF was created to coordinate a statewide effort directed towards the elimination of gang activity in Minnesota.

Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment Through Research

Dedicated to the study and research of issues that affect the Hispanic community in Minnesota.

Department of Corrections, Community Preservation Board

This is a vehicle for community organizations and individuals that work with communities in the inner cities to develop and train themselves in areas that build an understanding of the criminal justice system and victim's issues, such as restorative justice.

Department of Human Services Bias Panel

Dedicated to eliminate racial bias in the Department as well as to discuss issues that relate to racial tensions in the communities that receive service delivery from the Department.

Department of Employee Relations Affirmative Action Council

The goal of this group is to ensure that state government provides employment opportunities and access to all people regardless of race, disability, gender and sexual orientation.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Environmental Impact Board

To ensure that minority populated areas are fairly treated when environmental issues arise.

Department of Human Services Advisory Committee on Welfare Reform

To ensure that minority communities have a voice when welfare reform issues are discussed and decided.

Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research

Dedicated to conduct research in areas that impact Latinos in the state and to provide a conduit for information about Latinos to the public.

Minnesota Department of Health Office of Minority Health Advisory Committee

This group brings to the attention of public officials and private entities the health concerns and issues that affect minority communities in Minnesota as well as propose solutions to some of those problems.

DCFL Migrant Services Consortium

Dedicated to examine and propose solutions to the issues that affect the state's migrant workforce and their families.

Minneapolis Hate Bias Response Team

Education and prevention of hate—bias related incidents in the Minneapolis community.



Issues and Concerns Facing the Hispanic Community

In this section we have summarized the issues that are of concern to the Latino community in Minnesota. Some of those issues are recurrent and have been reported in prior Biennium reports submitted by CLAC. We have conducted a number of forums and surveys within the Latino community throughout the state as well as state agencies that serve the Latino population in order to find out what are the current issues.

Education

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

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

In 1996 in Minnesota, the graduation rate for Hispanic youth was 61.3%. In 1999, that graduation rate for Hispanics augmented to 68.8%. That demonstrates that the communities and the government are doing something to improve the situation. However, the dropout rate in 1999 was 31.2 for Hispanics and our community continues to have the higher drop out rate of all minorities in Minnesota.

In the U.S. in general, not enough Hispanic children participate in pre-primary education programs and many leave high school without a diploma. That trend is also the case in Minnesota. For Hispanic children and youth, there are several indicators that should concern us:

- Despite the advantages of pre-school education, three and four-year old Latino children are least likely to be enrolled in such programs than other ethnic groups.
- In 1996, slightly more than one in four Hispanic three year olds in the U.S. were enrolled in early childhood education programs, compared to one half of African American children and 45% of Caucasian children. Among four year olds the proportion nationally rises to 49% of Hispanics, 79% of African Americans and 65% of Caucasian.
- Latino children are the least likely of all the children to participate in the Head Start Program.
- There exists a significant and persistent disparity between the proportion of Hispanics and other Americans who are high school graduates.
- In 1998, on a national level, the proportion of Hispanic with high school diplomas was at 62.8%, while African Americans who were high school graduates reached 88.2% and Caucasian high school graduates topped 93.6%.
- The drop-out rate of Latino students has remained disproportionately high for the past decade..
- Among Latinos, Mexican Americans are the least likely to have a high school diploma. *

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

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

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

Health Care

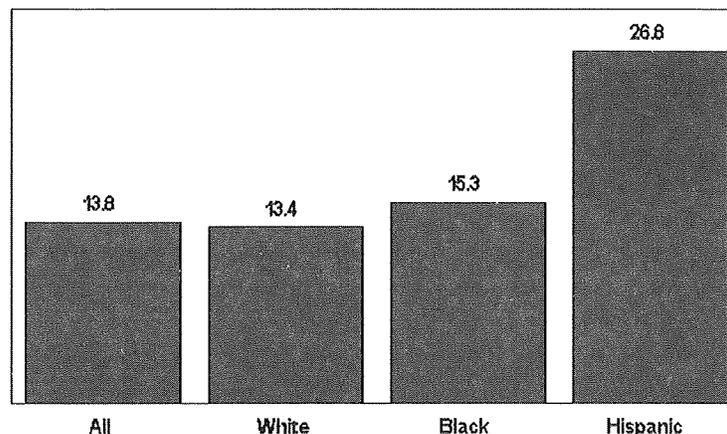
There is a need in the Hispanic community, as well as in all minority communities in Minnesota, of some action regarding the high cost of health care. In addition, cultural competency of health care practitioners and workers is a concern, as people from different ethnic backgrounds have different beliefs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

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

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

The U.S. Census Bureau statistics reflect that in a three year span, from 1997-1999, 34.3% of the Hispanic population in the nation was without health insurance coverage. For comparison purposes, the percentage of people without any form of health coverage in the African American community was 21.6%, in the Asian-Pacific community the total was 20.9% and in the American Indian community the percentage was 27.1%* Regarding children, the data collected demonstrates that Hispanic children are the biggest group of uninsured among all the children in the United States. The following table shows 1995 data, but the number of uninsured Hispanic children continues to increase.

Figure 1. Percent of Children Without Health Insurance in 1995



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

*Data obtained from the United States Census Bureau

Affordable Housing

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

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

In addition to having more affordable units, there is a need to improve opportunities for homeownership for Hispanic families. To move from being a renter to owning a home, families need some support in the form of subsidies, interest and financing options, down payment subsidies and other financial alternatives from both government and private sector. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 1995, out of a total of 7,078 Hispanic families, 5,722 families, or 80.8%, could not afford a median priced home in their area. These are national figures that are quite old. Considering the lack of affordable housing in Minnesota and considering that the median home prize in this state is among the highest in the nation, we can conclude that this number may be higher for Minnesota. If we examine the data for a modestly priced home, the 1995 percentage reported for Hispanic families who were unable to afford a modest home was 74.7%, which is still quite high when compared to other ethnic groups in the nation.

Other issues and data* regarding housing for Hispanics and their families are:

- According to a HUD study, 21 percent of Hispanic households have severely inadequate housing or bear severe housing costs.
- An additional 32% of Hispanic households bear moderate problems of overcrowding, adequacy or cost.
- 31% of all Hispanic renters live in distressed housing in need of basic improvements that the landlord cannot afford to make.
- One in four Hispanic households--and one in three low-income Hispanic households--include 5 or more members.
- One-third of Hispanic households include children under 6 years of age.
- Hispanics are more likely to live in older housing stock. One in three Hispanic households lives in housing built before 1950. Six in ten live in housing built before 1979. These homes are likely to have lead hazards, a point which should be correlated to the increased likelihood that Hispanic households will include children.
- More than one in four Hispanic households in the U.S. have an income below the federal poverty rate. Over half of all Hispanic households receive income that is less than 200 percent of the poverty rate.
- In 1995, the median household income for Hispanics was \$24,000. One in four Hispanics had income of less than \$10,000, and fewer than one in four had income greater than \$40,000.
- Three-fourths of all Hispanic households--and two-thirds of low-income Hispanic households--receive most of their income from work. Over half of all Hispanic households receive income *solely* from work. Nearly nine in ten of all married Hispanics with children receive most of their income from work, and the rate is nearly as high when only low-income households with children are considered. Over half of Hispanic single mothers and 82 percent of single fathers get most of their income from work.

* Data from the National Hispanic Housing Council

Other issues that affect Hispanics in Minnesota

This section will summarize other issues that are affecting Hispanics in the state of Minnesota and which have been brought to our attention by the community. The CLAC has been working in partnership with state agencies and community based organizations to address some of these issues. We believe that resolving these issues and addressing these concerns will ensure that we continue to be productive members of our society and full participants in the state's economical well being.

Interpretive Services

Rural Minnesota faces 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

This issue centers on the need for Latinos to receive information and the tools to learn "living skills" and be able to integrate in the Minnesota community. It 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

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, its effects and what type of services are available.

Leadership Development

During our community forums, the need for leadership development was discussed at length. The 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 this minority.

Coordination of Services

At the Minneapolis forum, it was recommended that the CLAC helps coordinate community based organizations that provide services to Latinos and that it identifies service gaps and provides referrals.

Immigration

Immigration was mentioned as a concern at several forums. 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.

Racism and Stereotyping

There is a concern within the Latino community in Minnesota that all Latinos are seen by the majority of the population as immigrants even though some are U.S. born or have been in Minnesota since early 1900's. However, the wrong perception regarding Latinos overpowers the positive contributions Latinos have made to the state. The Hispanic community in Minnesota believes that many of the state's agencies and community organizations have biased policies and practices in place.

CLAC's Objectives for the Next Biennium

The CLAC is committed to assist in addressing the issues that affect the Latino community in Minnesota and to ensure that the Chicano Latino people integrate into our society. To that effect, the CLAC Board of Director's has a strategic plan which will be implemented in the next biennium and which will address some of the concerns of the Hispanic community. The CLAC will continue to partner with state agencies, legislators and the governor as well as community based organizations, to formulate strategies that address the issues presented in this report.

The needs of our community are many, but over the next two years, the CLAC will focus on certain issues that are most pressing and whose solutions will have the greatest positive impact on our community.

Responding to the Needs Identified by the Community

The resources of the CLAC are very limited and the agency is more effective when it can create partnerships 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

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

Health

- Partner with the Department of Health and other related organizations to address the identified needs within the Latino community.
- Work with MinnesotaCare to address the health needs of Hispanics.
- Organize and conduct a forum with community leaders and health service providers to assess how can the health concerns and issues of Hispanics in out-state Minnesota be resolved.
- Work to ensure that there is more education and information for Latinos on chemical dependency.
- 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

- Promote the development of target marketing programs to Hispanics and migrant workers.
- Promote the development of bilingual homebuyer education programs, counseling and training.
- Involve the lending community in creative solutions directed towards the goal of Hispanic homeownership.
- Promote set-aside funding for communities of color in Minnesota.
- Promote review of zoning ordinances that encourage seasonal and short term housing development.
- Partner with Hispanic housing organizations that promote the development and study of Hispanic housing needs, including housing for seasonal and migrant workers.

Economic Development

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

Hispanic Leadership

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

Additional Projects

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

List Receipts and Expenditures

Financial Report FY 1999-2000

REVENUES		
General Fund	Operations	619,000.00
Grants		60,000.00
Gift Receipts		13,464.37
Balances Forwarded In		49,359.95
Other		0.00
TOTAL		\$741,824.32
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries & Benefits		374,501.59
Space Rental, Maintenance, Utilities		46,267.96
Repairs		13,489.85
Printing & Advertising		77,243.64
Prof./Tech. Services Outside V.		9,465.11
Computer & Systems Service		2,340.03
Communications		36,241.48
Travel In-State		19,674.79
Travel Out-State		12,027.84
Supplies		34,580.39
Equipment		26,687.94
Employee Development		9,297.23
Other Operating Costs		17,449.02
State Agency Reinb		-1,223.17
Balances Forwarded out		43,359.23
Cancelletions		20,321.39
TOTAL		\$741,824.32

* 1999 Grant received from the Department of Children Families and Learning for an education project

The above information is based on the reports provided by the Financial Management and Reporting Division of the Department of Administration.

Fiscal Year 1999 Expenditures

	General Operations 100/1000-01	Gift Fund 690/1004	Gift Fund 690/1005	Gift Fund 690/1006	Gift Fund 690/1007	Gift Fund 690/1008	Gift Fund 690/1009	TOTAL
1AO - SALARIES & BENEFITS	199,043.73						600.02	199,643.75
2AO - RENT	18,489.26							18,489.26
2BO - REP-EQUI/FUR-	12,060.44							12,060.44
2CO - PRINTING & ADVERT	48,163.06	6,877.00			4,026.20			59,066.26
2DO - PRO/TECH SERV	7,265.11			588.5				7,853.61
2EO - COMPUTER & SERV	1,063.43							1,063.43
2FO - COMMUNICATIONS	23,922.06							23,922.06
2GO - TRAVEL, IN-STATE	9,214.28							9,214.28
2HO - TRAVEL, OUT-STATE	10,396.19							10,396.19
2JO - SUPPLIES	21,541.81							21,541.81
2KO - EQUIPMENT	14,553.16							14,553.16
2LO - EMPLOYEE DEVELOP	6,016.00		666.23					6,682.23
2MO - OTHER OPER COSTS	11,963.65				58.85			12,022.50
2RO - STATE AGENCY REINB	-1,223.17							-1,223.17
2SO - LEGAL SERV AG								
TOTAL	\$382,469.01	\$6,877.00	\$ 666.23	\$ 588.50	\$ 4,085.05	\$ -	\$ 600.02	\$395,285.81

Fiscal Year 2000 Expenditures

	General Operations 100/1000-01	Gift Fund 690/1004	Gift Fund 690/1005	Gift Fund 690/1006	Gift Fund 690/1007	Gift Fund 690/1008	Gift Fund 690/1009	TOTAL
1AO - SALARIES(FT)& BENEFITS	171,431.66							171,431.66
2AO - RENT	27,778.70							27,778.70
2BO - REP-EQUI/FUR-	1,429.41							1,429.41
2CO - PRINTING & ADVERT	17,803.56					1,900.00		19,703.56
2DO - PRO/TECH SERV	1,611.50							1,611.50
2EO - COMPUTER & SERV	1,276.60							1,276.60
2FO - COMMUNICATIONS	12,319.42							12,319.42
2GO - TRAVEL, IN-STATE	10,460.51							10,460.51
2HO - TRAVEL, OUT-STATE	1,631.65							1,631.65
2JO - SUPPLIES	13,038.58							13,038.58
2KO - EQUIPMENT	12,134.78							12,134.78
2LO - EMPLOYEE DEVELOP	2,615.00							2,615.00
2MO - OTHER OPER COSTS	5,426.52							5,426.52
2RO - STATE AGENCY REINB								
2SO - LEGAL SERV AG								
TOTAL	\$ 278,957.89	0	0	0	0	\$ 1,900.00	0	\$280,857.89

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