

Agency Purpose

Minnesota statutes provide the Chicano Latino Affairs Council with a unique responsibility of “advising the governor and the legislature on the issues of importance to Minnesota’s growing Latino population.” The Council raises issues of interest to the Latino community and advises policy makers on the impact of legislation, rules, and regulations on the Latino community. The Chicano Latino Affairs Council works in a variety of ways to carry out its mission:

- ◆ serves as a liaison between local, state, and federal government and Minnesota’s Chicano Latino community;
- ◆ acts 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 issues such as immigration, education, discrimination, and access to health care and other state and local resources;
- ◆ educates legislators, agency heads, the media, and the general public about the accomplishments and contributions of Chicano Latinos;
- ◆ raises general awareness about the problems and issues faced by the Latino community; and
- ◆ publishes the accomplishments of Chicano Latinos in Minnesota.

Core Functions

These functions help the Chicano Latino Affairs Council carry out its mission:

- ⇒ Act as a resource for legislators, the governor, and state agencies that address problems and issues of impact to the Latino population in Minnesota.
- ⇒ Serve as a resource for city and county governments that implement legislation and create policies that have an impact in the Latino population in the state.
- ⇒ Act as a resource for community based organizations that work with the Chicano Latino population.
- ⇒ Educate the new Latino immigrants in the state on legislation, rules, and regulations.
- ⇒ Publish a monthly newsletter in Spanish and English to report on the accomplishments of Chicano Latinos that serves as an informational conduit for the community and distributed it statewide.
- ⇒ Publish and disseminate a bilingual directory which serves as a resource for the community for information about all the organizations, businesses, churches, media, and networking groups that are either owned by, or serve, Minnesota’s Chicano Latino population.

Operations

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council consists of a 15-member board of directors, 11 of which are members of the Chicano Latino community and four of which are legislators. Of the 11 community members, there is a representative for each of the state’s eight congressional districts. There are also three at-large community representatives.

At A Glance

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council’s unique position within state government makes it possible to bring the voice of the Latino community in Minnesota to the policymakers, raising awareness of the issues that affect that population while at the same time serving the community as an educational conduit and liaison with city and county governments statewide

- ◆ The Latino population is the ethnic group with the highest growth in the United States and in Minnesota.
- ◆ From 1990 to 2000, Minnesota experienced a growth in the Latino population of 166%, becoming the minority group with the biggest growth in the state.
- ◆ Approximately 145,000 Latinos are residents in Minnesota.
- ◆ About 20,000 Latino agricultural workers come to Minnesota to work in the farms and food industry each year.

The governor appoints all community members on the Council. Through the executive director, they provide a voice in all levels of government for the approximately 145,000 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.

M.S. 3.9223, mandates that the Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC) fulfill 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) through the following:

- ◆ 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;
- ◆ 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; and
- ◆ implement programs designed to solve the problems of Chicano Latinos when authorized to do so by statute, rule or order.

Budget

FY 2004-05 Budget

General Fund \$550,000

Contact

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2006-07
	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
General					
Current Appropriation	275	275	275	275	550
Forecast Base	275	275	275	275	550
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2004-05					0%
 <u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
General	285	327	275	275	550
Statutory Appropriations					
Gift	0	8	0	0	0
Total	285	335	275	275	550
 <u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	215	255	226	227	453
Other Operating Expenses	70	80	49	48	97
Total	285	335	275	275	550
 <u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Cncl Spanish Spkg	285	335	275	275	550
Total	285	335	275	275	550
 <u>Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)</u>					
	4.1	4.8	4.0	3.8	