

Agency Purpose

Minnesota statutes provide the Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC) with a unique responsibility to “advise the governor and state 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 CLAC works in a variety of ways to carry out its mission:

- ◆ serves as a liaison between local, state, and federal government and Minnesota’s Latino community;
- ◆ acts as an information and referral agency to ensure that 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 Latinos;
- ◆ raises general awareness about the problems and issues faced by the Latino community; and
- ◆ publishes the accomplishments of Latinos in Minnesota.

Core Functions

These functions help the CLAC carry out its mission:

- ⇒ Act as a resource for legislators, the governor, and state agencies to address issues, interests, and areas of concern that impact 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 Latino population.
- ⇒ Educate new members of the Minnesota Latino community on state legislation, rules, and regulations.
- ⇒ Publish a monthly newsletter to report on the accomplishments of Latinos that serves as an informational conduit for the community and distributed statewide.
- ⇒ Publish and disseminate a bilingual directory which serves as a resource for the community on information about all the organizations, businesses, churches, media, and networking groups that are either owned by, or serve, Minnesota’s Latino population.

Operations

The CLAC consists of a 15-member board of directors, 11 of which are members of the Latino community and four of which are legislators. Of the 11 community members, eight represent Minnesota’s federal congressional districts. There are also three at-large community representatives.

At A Glance

Minnesota’s Latino community is by far the state’s fastest growing ethnic minority. From 1990 to 2000, Minnesota experienced a monumental growth in the Latino population of 166%, increasing from 54,000 to 143,000, respectively. As of 2005, estimates show that the state’s Latino population has grown to 182,000 or more than 3.6% of all Minnesota residents. Latinos continue to be influential in all aspects of society of Minnesota, stretching from the Twin Cities metro-area to the greater and rural parts of the state.

◆ **Latino Statewide Demographics**

(Latino Clusters within a 15-mile radius)

State Population	143,000	<3%
Minneapolis-St.Paul	76,981	54.0
Faribault	4,084	2.9
Willmar	3,328	2.3
Moorhead	3,247	2.3
Rochester	3,095	2.2

Source: *Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2000.*

◆ **K-12 Education-Increase in Latino Enrollment**

Year	Total Enroll.	Latinos	%
2001	822,840	30,605	3.7
2002	816,077	33,805	4.1
2003	809,090	36,674	4.5
2004	801,191	39,306	4.9
2005	797,804	42,393	5.3

Source: *Minnesota Department of Education, 2005.*

Since 2001, Latino student enrollment increased by 38%, while overall student enrollment declined by 3%.

◆ **Latinos Contribution in Agriculture**

Each year Minnesota welcomes migrant families to the agricultural sector of the economy. About 20,000 Latino agriculture workers come to Minnesota to work in the farms and food industry each year, further contributing to the state’s \$2.87 billion in agricultural exports.

The governor appoints all directors to the CLAC board. 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 CLAC fulfill its primary mission of advising to the governor and the legislature on issues that affect the 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 Latinos are well served in the state;
- ◆ recommend legislation to improve the economic and social status of Latinos in the state;
- ◆ serve as a conduit for state government agencies that serve the Latino people;
- ◆ oversee the performance of studies designed to accurately depict the condition of Latinos in the state with the goal of suggesting solutions to those issues, especially in the areas of K-12 education, higher education, housing, economic development, health care, human rights, social welfare, and related matters; and
- ◆ implement programs designed to solve the problems of Latinos when authorized to do so by statute, rule or order.

The CLAC represents and serves individuals and ethnic groups from over 20 Latin America countries, including the Caribbean and Spain. The makeup of Minnesota's Latino community hails from the following countries: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Budget

The agency's FY 2006-07 budget includes a General Fund appropriation of \$542,000.

Contact

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2008-09
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
General					
Current Appropriation	271	271	271	271	542
Forecast Base	271	271	271	271	542
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2006-07					0%
 <u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
General	215	354	271	271	542
Statutory Appropriations					
Gift	0	0	3	2	5
Total	215	354	274	273	547
 <u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	162	188	167	175	342
Other Operating Expenses	53	166	107	98	205
Total	215	354	274	273	547
 <u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Cncl Spanish Spkg	215	354	274	273	547
Total	215	354	274	273	547
 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)					
	3.1	3.8	3.0	3.0	