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Agency Purpose

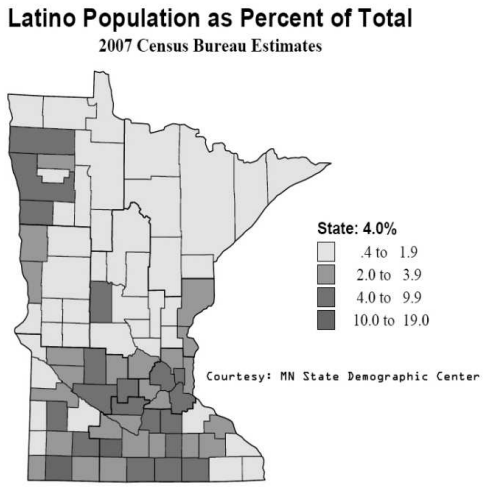
The Council on Affairs of Chicano/Latino People ("Chicano Latino Affairs Council" or "CLAC") was established in 1978 by the Minnesota Legislature to advise and bring awareness to the governor and state legislature on the nature of issues facing Minnesota's vibrant and growing Latino communities statewide, including the challenges encountered by Chicano/Latino migrant agricultural workers. Additionally, CLAC serves as a liaison between state government and the Latino community in Minnesota.

At a Glance

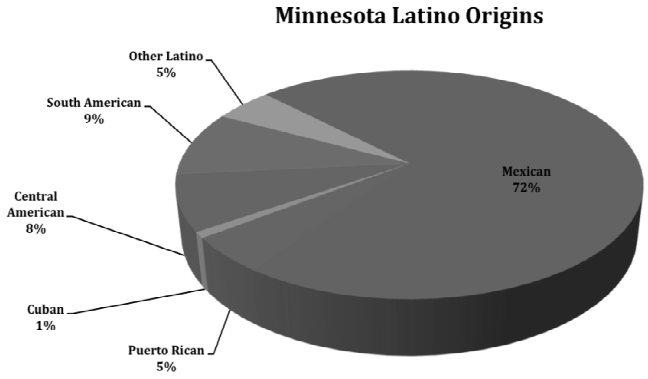
The Chicano Latino Affairs Council engages the Latino community and works to carry out its mission by:

- Advising and educating legislators and policymakers on critical issues that impact Latinos in the areas of health, education, housing, economic development, and immigration
- Serving as a liaison between local, state, and federal government and Minnesota's Latino community
- Acting as an information and referral agency to ensure that Latinos have access to programs and services sponsored by government agencies and community-based organizations
- Raising awareness about the challenges and issues that impact the Latino community
- Publicizing the accomplishments and contributions Latinos make to the state of Minnesota

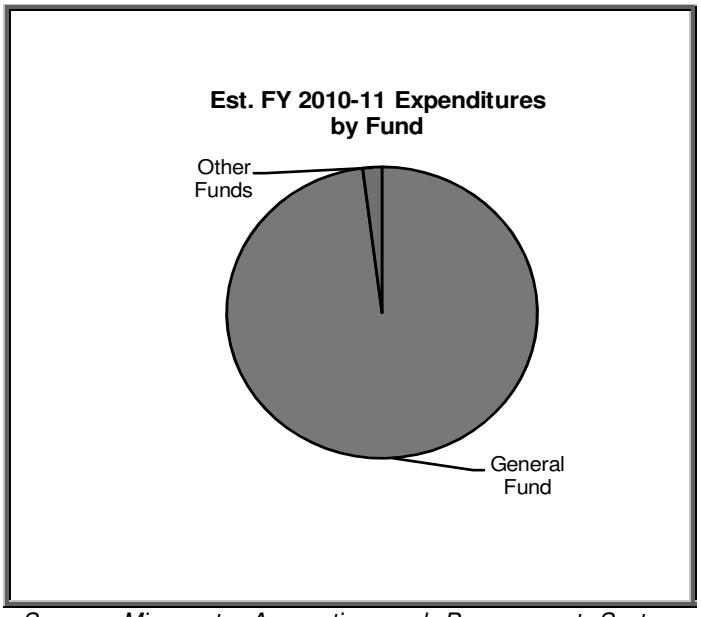
The Latino community in Minnesota is the state's fastest growing ethnic group. Today, Latinos in Minnesota number approximately 215,820, which is about 4% of the state's total population. According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, it is estimated that by 2030 Latinos in Minnesota will number over 406,000. Latinos continue to be an influential and integral part of Minnesota's economy and culture, both in the Twin Cities metro area and in Greater Minnesota.



This map reflects the 2007 population data for Latino population in Minnesota by county. Latinos have a heavier presence in the southern half of Minnesota, as well as along the western border.



The pie chart reflects origins of all Latinos in Minnesota, but does not reflect current immigration patterns. While Mexico may have the largest level of representation in Minnesota, Latinos from several other areas of Latin America are also present.



Source: Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS).

Strategies

The following are key functions that carry out the mission of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council:

- Act as resource for the governor, Minnesota Legislature, and state agencies that focus on policy issues that impact the Latino community and migrant farm workers in the state
- Serve as a source of information on the Latino community for all levels of government that implement legislation and create policies, which have an impact on Minnesota Latinos
- Act as a resource for the Latino community to have access to programs and services by the state and community organizations
- Educate and inform the Latino community on relevant policy issues in Minnesota
- Act as conduit to provide access to the Latino community to testify and make presentations before Minnesota's legislators
- Publish a quarterly newsletter to report on recent issues of importance and recognize the accomplishments and contributions Latinos make to the state of Minnesota
- Publish a statewide bilingual directory to serve as a resource of information for the community about Latino Minnesota organizations, businesses, churches, media, and networking groups that work to empower and serve the community.

Operations

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council's internal operations include four working units: executive, administrative, legislative, and community/communications. Each unit carries on specific duties to support the mission of CLAC. The executive unit works in collaboration with the other units and council members to advise the governor and state legislature on issues that affect the Latino community. The legislative unit works to inform the state legislature and agency heads on recent trends of the community in health, housing, education, immigration, and economic development. Additionally, the unit informs the community on policy issues and relevant legislation that impacts the community. The community/communications unit works to engage the Latino community statewide through community forums, focus groups, surveys, and other civic activities to capture the Latino voice as well as by keeping the community informed and aware of government services. Through enhanced methods of civic engagement, this unit also acts as a conduit to bring the Latino community to the state capitol to testify before the state legislature on important policy and issues for Latinos in Minnesota. The administrative unit provides management and finance support to the executive unit.

The CLAC members are appointed by the governor for a term of four years. The composition of the 15-member board includes three at-large members, eight members representing Minnesota's congressional districts, two state representatives, and two state senators. The senators and representatives are appointed by the leadership of the Minnesota Legislature. The composition of the CLAC membership must fully represent the demographics of the state's Latino community. Through CLAC's executive director and staff, the Council's members provide the official voice of the council to represent over 215,820 Latinos in the state of Minnesota.

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council serves the Latino community, individuals, and ethnic groups born in or whose ancestors are from countries in Latin America, including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico.

Key Goals & Measures

During each legislative session, CLAC presents a united platform on behalf of the Latino community in Minnesota and addresses critical issues in policy areas such as E-12 and higher education, housing, health, economic development, and immigration. CLAC has specific goals and measures related to activities for the FY 2012-13 biennium. They are as follows:

Goal 1 – To capture the Latino voice through a statewide civic engagement strategy

- Conduct three or more community forums and visits in Latino cluster communities as designated by the State Demographic Center to inform local Latino communities of CLAC's mission
- Engage several cohorts of Latinos in focus groups to secure qualitative and quantitative data in CLAC's five key areas
- Conduct survey research and management on policy priorities set by the council

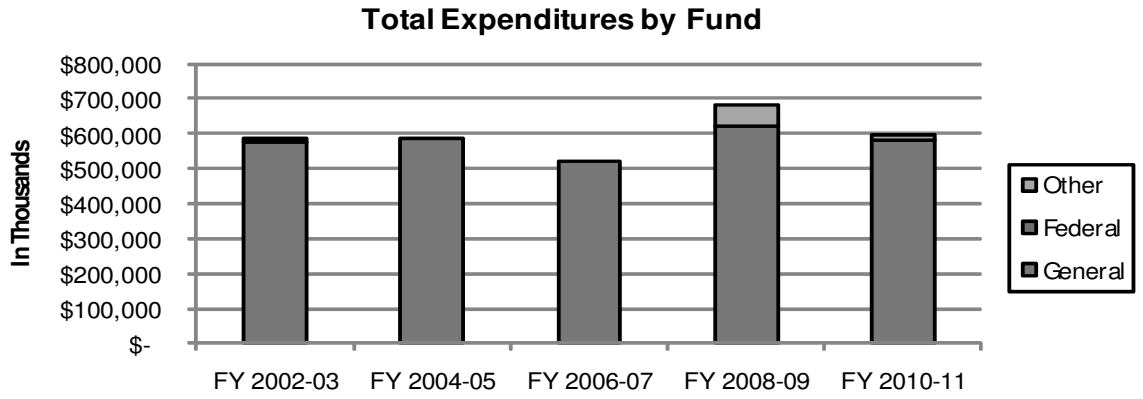
Goal 2 – To advise and educate the governor and legislature on critical issues that impact the Latino community through a legislative engagement strategy

- Host a CLAC Legislative Day at the capitol to present a united platform for the state's Latino community
- Testify before senate and house committee hearings on CLAC's five key areas and act as a conduit for the Latino community to engage the Minnesota Legislature
- Conduct one-on-one informative briefs with the governor and advisors, state legislators and commissioners on CLAC's legislative priorities

Goal 3 – To inform the community on policy issues that will impact the Latino community as well as to publicize the contributions and accomplishments of Latinos in Minnesota

- Distribute a bimonthly legislative update medium entitled "*Click*-CLAC" to inform the community of the issues and bills being discussed during the legislative session
- Publish a quarterly statewide e-newsletter entitled "¡El Minnesotano!" to inform CLAC stakeholders of the council's work, recognize Latino individuals and entities which contribute to the common good, and highlight relevant themes in the Latino community and Minnesota
- Distribute press releases and action alerts to keep the community informed on state policy and actions

Budget Trends



*Source data for the previous chart is the Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS) as of 09/23/2010. * FY 2010-11 is estimated, not actual*

The unemployment resulting from the recession has impacted Latinos and other minorities more than the general public. Similarly, Latinos have been impacted by significant home loan foreclosure rates. Also, the budget pressures on education funding are especially difficult for Latino students, whose achievement gap is one of the most significant in the state and the nation. These situations likely will produce increased demands on the CLAC

to facilitate improvements. The agency is responding proactively by proposing revenue-generating and collaborative ideas with various state agencies, private entities, and other stakeholder groups.

Contact

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current FY2010	Current FY2011	Governor Recomm. FY2012	Governor Recomm. FY2013	Biennium 2012-13
Direct Appropriations by Fund					
General					
Current Appropriation	292	289	289	289	578
Recommended	**292**	**289**	**289**	**289**	**578**
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2010-11					-0.5%
Expenditures by Fund					
Direct Appropriations					
General	271	310	289	289	578
Statutory Appropriations					
Miscellaneous Special Revenue	8	28	0	0	0
Total	**279**	**338**	**289**	**289**	**578**
Expenditures by Category					
Total Compensation	241	269	212	218	430
Other Operating Expenses	38	69	77	71	148
Total	**279**	**338**	**289**	**289**	**578**
Expenditures by Program					
Chicano Latino Affairs Council	279	338	289	289	578
Total	**279**	**338**	**289**	**289**	**578**
Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)	**3.6**	**3.6**	**3.1**	**3.1**	

Dollars in Thousands

	Actual FY2010	Budgeted FY2011	Governor's Recomm. FY2012	FY2013	Biennium 2012-13
Non Dedicated Revenue:					
Total Non-Dedicated Receipts	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Dedicated Receipts:					
Grants:					
Miscellaneous Special Revenue	8	28	0	0	0
Total Dedicated Receipts	**8**	**28**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Agency Total Revenue	**8**	**28**	**0**	**0**	**0**