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Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs

Agency Profile 1

<https://mn.gov/mcla/>

AT A GLANCE

The Council advises the governor, the legislature, and government agencies on issues affecting Latino Minnesotans, informing, and involving our constituency on policy and legislation. The Council represents almost 346,000 Latinos in Minnesota, or 6.1 percent of the total population. Approximately two-thirds are Minnesotans of Mexican descent, followed by Puerto Rican, Ecuadorian, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Colombian ancestries. The Council is composed of 11 community board members and four legislative board members. Board members and staff reflect the rich ethnic diversity rooted in Latin America and the Caribbean.

General State of the Minnesota Latino Community

Growth in the Latino population is significant. It has increased 26 percent since 2010, compared to 7.6 percent growth for the state. One-third of the Latino population lives in Greater Minnesota, primarily in southern and central Minnesota. About two-thirds of the Latino population is U.S. born; with 90 percent of children under 18 born in the United States. The median age of the Minnesota Latino population is 25 years old. Latinos have the highest labor force participation rate in Minnesota and their purchasing power is \$5.4 billion. Despite their contributions, Latino Minnesotans were disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Small businesses, agricultural workers, and low-income families – also affected by the digital divide in distance learning – were hit the hardest. Despite some economic recovery, prevailing disparities were exacerbated during the pandemic crisis.

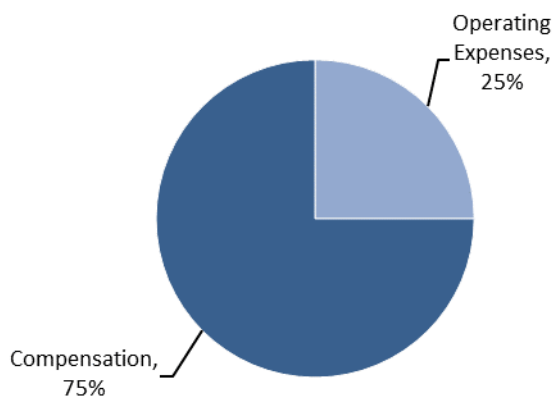
PURPOSE

Minnesota Statute 15.0145 states that the MCLA must work for the implementation of economic, social, legal, and political equality for its constituency. The council shall work with the legislature and governor to carry out this work by performing the following duties:

- Advise the governor and the legislature on issues of importance to the Latino community such as:
 - Administrative and legislative changes needed to improve Latinos' economic and social condition
 - Implications and effect of proposed administrative and legislative changes
- Serve as a liaison between state government and organizations that serve the Latino community
- Design and/or execute studies designed to suggest solutions to the problems in the Latino community in the areas of education, employment, human rights, health, housing, social welfare, and other related areas.

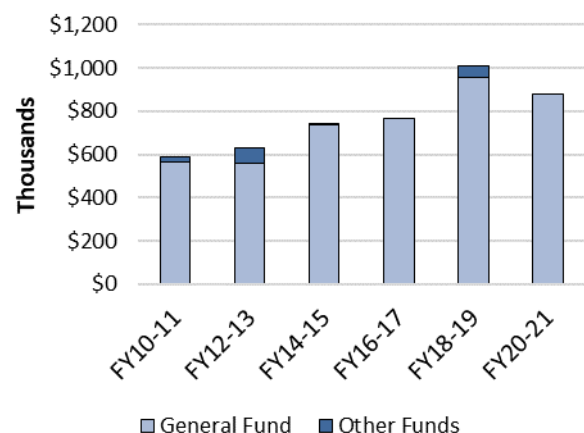
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 2021 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs activities are funded through general fund appropriations and, occasionally, by grants from Minnesota foundations. MCLA has a total FY 2022-23 biennial appropriation of \$2,122,000 dollars. This funding serves to cover expenses to operate MCLA's office, which includes four full-time employees, contractors, and student workers that carry out the agency's statutory requirements.

STRATEGIES

The Council delivers on its mandated mission by using the following key strategies:

Legislative and policy making process focused on four interconnected policy areas (lifelong learning, prosperity and financial stability, wellbeing, and belonging):

- Trusted source of information to the Governor's office, legislature, and community
- Draft, support, and monitor legislation derived from community input and needs
- Consult with legislators and state agencies
- Provide research-based testimony, position statements, reports, and policy recommendations
- Facilitate constituency input and participation in the legislative process

Direct constituency communication

- Targeted meetings and conference calls with Latino serving organizations statewide
- Consistent and intentional use of bilingual social media and newsletters to inform and connect with constituency
- Develop and publish in-house research reports

Community engagement

- Plan, organize, and hold community listening sessions in Greater Minnesota and the metro area
- Connect constituency with legislators, state program administrators, and other Latino serving agencies
- Collaborate in inter-agency and community efforts to address Latino Minnesotan needs through legislative and policy recommendations
- Organize and collaborate with other organizations on legislative and policy forums and presentations
- Attend community events, and partner in cultural and social gatherings to recognize Latino cultures

RESULTS

| <i>Type of Measure</i> | <i>Name of Measure</i> | <i>Previous</i> | <i>Current</i> | <i>Dates</i> |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Quantity | Legislation and Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted legislation • Bills included in omnibus bills • Tracked legislation • Legislative testimony/ position statements submitted • Participation and advisory role in agency workgroups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 • 1 • 30 • 15 • 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 • 3 • 50 • 20 • 6 | FY2021, FY2022 |
| Quantity | Statewide Community Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community forums and listening sessions • Meetings with constituents, community leaders, and local organizations • Constituents reached through combined social media and traditional communication, including newsletters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 • 120 • 35,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 • 300 • 40,000 | FY2021, FY2022 |
| Quantity | Reports, briefs, and outreach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual community outreach and engagement report(s) • Latino Demographics Report • Bilingual mid and end of legislative session reports • Developed publications to advise legislators, the governor's office, and constituency through graphs, charts, infographics, and legislative district-specific fact sheets • Annual Mandated Reports • Bilingual Newsletters shared with approximately 8,000 subscribers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 • 1 • 2 • 67 • 1 • 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 2 • 67 • 1 • 12 | FY2021, FY2022 |

Tracked activities are aimed at fulfilling the Council's following statutory responsibilities:

- Legislation and Policy: Statute 15.0145, Subd. 6, Paragraphs A, C, D, & F
- Statewide Community Engagement: Statute 15.0145, Subd. 6, Paragraphs B & E
- Reports and Studies: Statute 15.0145, Subd. 6, Paragraphs B, E, & F

Legal Authority: Minn. Stat. § 15.0145 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=15.0145>) provides the legal authority for the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs.