

**CURRENT COMPOSITION**

**Staff:** 5 FTE (1 vacancy)  
**Board:** 15 members (11 community members appointed by the Governor and 4 legislative members)

**MANDATE**

The Council works for the implementation of the social, economic, political and legal equality of Latino Minnesotans with the state legislature and government. (MN Statute 15.0145)

**KEY INITIATIVES:** how do we serve Minnesotans

**I Advise the State Legislature and Government**

- Supports legislation that is relevant for our constituents.
- Produce fact sheets with socio-economic indicators for each legislative district.
- Provide advice, information, and recommendations to state agencies as requested or per statute (DHS, DEED, MDH, MDE, MNDOT, Governor’s Workforce Development Board). Produce in-house research for the legislature and the public.
- Recent publications include one study on housing, several community listening sessions and surveys reports, and two demographic portraits of Latino Minnesotans based on the 2020 Census.



**II Convene and connect**

Community listening sessions in Greater Minnesota and the metro area during the summer.

Day at the Capitol for community members and leaders to connect with their representatives and experience the people’s house.

Collaboration work with Latino organizations and leaders to set a consensus agenda through the Minnesota Latino Leadership Alliance (MiLLA).

**III Monitor, track, and support or introduce legislation in four interconnected areas:**



In 2025, we are supporting several bills or initiatives: the creation of the Minnesota Latino Museum; the establishment of a medical interpreters work group; funding to secure a diverse teacher workforce; streamlined certification for foreign-trained professionals and expansion of workforce development programs.





## IMPACT

Legislative and policy work that reduces inequities that negatively impact the wellbeing of Latino Minnesotans, other communities of color, and all Minnesotans.

Share information with the public and state officials to help maintain an informed opinion about our diverse Latino communities and their economic, cultural, and social contributions.

A monthly bilingual newsletter delivered to 16K subscribers keeps the public informed about Latino affairs, the legislative process, and services and programs.

We remain a trusted non-partisan source of information for Latino Minnesotans and state government.

MCLA creates safe spaces for civil and bi-partisan dialogues around issues affecting our communities. A total of 29 listening sessions have been conducted since 2017; 5 Days at the Capitol since 2017, and 4 post legislative session town-halls since 2018.

ADVISE AND INFORM ON  
**LEGISLATION AND POLICY**  
WITH **LATINO** MINNESOTANS

## OUR 2026-2027 BUDGET

For the 2026-2027 biennium, the Governor has recommended a small operating adjustment which will result in cutting 1 FTE.


The additional funding will help address operating cost increases.


As a small state agency, additional cuts will result in less services for our constituents and Minnesotans. Another staff cut would represent a 40% staff reduction which has a larger impact to our services than a cabinet or large state agency.

The biennial Governor's budget recommendation for MCLA represents less than 1% (0.07%) of the total budget for State Government and Veterans.

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# PRIORITIES OF THE HISPANIC AND LATINO/A/E COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA

Hispanic and Latino/a/e population in Minnesota (MN)  
as of October 2024:



### Population Growth:

Represents **6.4%** of the population of MN, totaling **367,000** people.



### Young Demographics:

One-third (**30%**) are under the age of 15.



### Labor Force Participation:

It has the highest labor force participation rate, at **77.5%**.



### Unemployment Rate:

During September 2024, the unemployment rate for this population was **3.7%**, compared to **4%** for the total population.



### Median Family Income:

Hispanic and Latino/a/e households have a median income of **\$64,102**, which is **\$13,618** less than the median household income in MN (**\$77,720**).



### Educational Level:

More than **50%** have a high school diploma or less.



### Homeownership:

More than half (**57%**) of Hispanic and Latino/a/e households own their homes.



## Perspectives of the Latino/a/e community in MN

Strengths and areas for improvement for the communities of:

### Moorhead

The community appreciates the peace and tranquility of its surroundings, fostering a sense of safety and well-being. However, it faces challenges such as access to health care, transportation, information about technological career paths, and a lack of culturally competent care.

### Rochester

People value the inclusive and welcoming environment. They are concerned about access to housing, the guarantee of their labor rights and have obstacles with their TN visas.

### Willmar

Highlighted the welcoming atmosphere and friendly interactions that enhance their lives in their communities. However, there are concerns about housing, with rising rental prices and a lack of affordable options.





## Community Recommendations:



### **Affordable Housing:**

Tenant advocacy services, collaboration with local governments to support affordable housing, and adapted financial education.



### **Access to Jobs:**

Simplified certification for foreign-trained professionals, stronger labor protections, and expanded bilingual workforce development programs.



### **Childcare Affordability:**

Expand subsidies for middle-income families, create flexible childcare options, and compensate for in-home care.



### **Tax Equity:**

Increase awareness of recent tax reforms, improve financial literacy, and ensure access to benefits for families with mixed documentation status.



### **Transportation Accessibility:**

Expand rural transportation services, provide transportation information in multiple languages, and develop community-based carpooling programs.



### **Health and Wellness:**

Support Hispanic and Latino/a/e organizations to close gaps in health care, expand culturally appropriate services, and coordinate protections against medical debt.



### **Civic Participation and Representation:**

Establish local mentoring systems for new immigrants, promote Hispanic and Latino/a/e representation in decision-making, and invest in infrastructure for cultural centers.



## Special thanks to:

#### •COPAL

(Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina)

#### •ACHLA

(Alianza de Chicanos, Hispanos y Latinoamericanos)

#### •Purpose Artisans

#### •Woodland Centers

#### •Spurs Bar and Grill

#### •CASA

(Cultura, Amigos, Salud y Ambiente)

MCLA study conducted by



To review the methodology and the full report, please visit this link:  
<https://mn.gov/mcla/resources/>

