



Media Contact:

Milo Márquez
(510) 717-3356

Milo.Marquez@CLLARO.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 10, 2021

FORTY LATINO ORGANIZATIONS FORM NEW STATEWIDE LATINO ACTION COUNCIL

Denver - The Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy and Research Organization (CLLARO) announced today formation of a new, statewide coalition of Latino nonprofit organizations. Called the Latino Action Council, the coalition will support legislation and public policies to improve conditions and opportunities for Latino populations throughout state.

At its first meeting, the Council's planning committee focused on several local, state, and Federal public policy goals. Examples include improved educational opportunities for Latino children, better access to health care, affordable housing, assistance for Latino families hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic, and greater opportunities to become U.S citizens, including non-citizens serving in the U.S. armed forces.

"CLLARO has organized the Latino Action Council because we believe that when Latino organizations act collectively, we increase our political influence," said Dr. Mike Cortés, CLLARO's executive director. "By acting together, we can do more to help improve laws and government policies that limit opportunities in communities served by Latino-led nonprofit organizations in Colorado."

Plans also include a statewide convention next year where candidates for public office will be invited to speak on issues of concern to Latino voters. The coalition is led by a planning committee of leaders from organizations in three regions of the state:

Northern Colorado and Western Slope

Alianza Latinx---Latinx Alliance (ALLA)
Hispanic Affairs Project (HAP)
Latino Coalition of Weld County
League of United American Citizens (LULAC)

Southern Colorado

American G.I. Forum of Colorado
Colorado Latinos Vote
Compañeros: Four Corners Immigrant Resource Center
Pueblo Voter Registration Project, Inc.
San Luís Valley Immigrant Resource Center

Denver Metro Area

Mi Casa Resource Center

NEWSED Community Development Corporation

Movimiento Poder (formerly known as Padres y Jóvenes Unidos)

Servicios de La Raza

Tepeyac Community Health Center

Besides the planning committee, 26 additional nonprofits across the state have affiliated with the Latino Action Council. “We know that there are at least 124 nonprofit organizations that are governed by and serve Latino communities across Colorado” said project director Milo Márquez. “We are reaching out and inviting more Latino nonprofits to join,” he said.

CLLARO is a nonprofit organization formed in 1964 originally known as the Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA). “We have a long history of working with other Latino groups to address shared concerns,” said executive director Cortés. CLLARO led several Latino organizations’ efforts to protect Latino communities of interest during this year’s redrawing of voting districts by Colorado’s new Congressional and State Legislative Redistricting Commissions.

Colorado’s population of Latino voters is growing. The 2010 U.S. Census found that one out of five Coloradans are Latino. CLLARO estimates that Latinos today are nearly one out of four. The Colorado State Demographer estimates that Latinos will be one out of three by 2050.

“CLLARO is committed to collaborating with other Latino organizations – both large and small – on legislative and policy issues that matter to us all,” said project director Márquez. “The Latino Action Council represents a multi-year strategy designed to permanently change the balance of power between Latinos and the rest of Colorado’s electorate and political establishment.”

The new coalition is nonpartisan and is designed to mobilize help for member organizations dealing with local challenges or discrimination against Latinos. Member organizations also plan to host community meetings with local elected public officials and candidates for public office, and to share information on proposed legislation and policy proposals.

###

Founded in 1964, CLLARO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. [CLLARO’s](http://www.cllaro.org) mission is to empower Latinos through leadership development, advocacy, and policy research to strengthen Colorado. www.cllaro.org