



April 27, 2021

U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar
1730 Longworth Building,
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Congresswoman Omar,

I am writing to express my support for the appropriations request from Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL) and African Career, Education and Resource, Inc. (ACER)'s ***Afro-Latinx Immigrant COVID-19 Workforce Re-Engagement Project*** to help expand their work with immigrant communities.

COPAL and ACER's proposal will elevate immigrants suffering from the COVID-19 impact on the workforce. They seek operating costs for two workers' centers, one in Brooklyn Park and one in Minneapolis. They will provide statewide access to resources for workforce development, job placement, labor rights, and wealth creation. Minnesota is a national leader in workforce and job markets. We rank high in health care, education, and finance, but fall short in immigrant access to these markets. Immigrants often work in cleaning, critical manufacturing, and warehousing. The worker centers will help unemployed and underemployed Africans and Latinos enhance their transferable skills and be successful while accessing new career pathways.

Minnesota consistently supports workforce development and by promoting immigrants relocating into needed sectors, Minnesota's economy can grow quicker following the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the state's priorities is to assist with workforce innovation coupled with racial equity. Both COPAL and ACER have been funded by multiple foundations and government agencies to do this work. By funding these proven organizations, they can further expand their substantiated programs to benefit more of Minnesota's immigrant community and the economy.


As Minnesota seeks effective ways to heal the effects of COVID-19 on the immigrant workforce, the ***Afro-Latinx Immigrant COVID-19 Workforce Re-Engagement Project*** will help steer Minnesota into economic recovery. MCLA fully endorses this project to fund two worker centers that will support immigrants with workforce development, job placement, labor rights, and wealth creation because it will have a meaningful and sustainable impact on Minnesota.


Sincerely,

Rosa Tock | Executive Director



**Latino Economic
Development Center**
Centro para el Desarrollo Económico Latino

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804 Margaret St. Saint Paul, MN 55106

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Dear Congresswoman Omar:

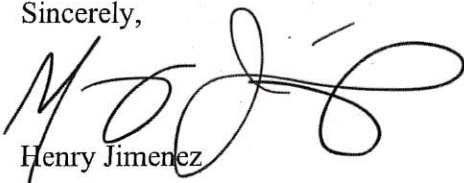
I am writing to express my support for the appropriations request from Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL) and African Career, Education and Resource, Inc. (ACER)'s Afro-Latinx Immigrant COVID-19 Workforce Re-Engagement Project to help expand their work with immigrant communities.

COPAL and ACER's proposal will elevate immigrants suffering from the unprecedented COVID-19 impact on the workforce. Their proposal seeks operating costs for two workers' centers in Brooklyn Park and in Minneapolis' historical Lake Street. They will provide statewide access to resources to African and Latino immigrants for workforce development, job placement, labor rights, and wealth creation. Minnesota is consistently a national leader in workforce and job markets often ranking high for our thriving job markets in health care, education, and finance. We fall short in access for immigrants into these same markets. Immigrants often work in cleaning, critical manufacturing, and warehousing. The worker centers will help underemployed and unemployed African and Latino immigrants enhance their transferable skills and to be successful while accessing new career pathways.

Minnesota consistently supports workforce development and by promoting immigrants, Minnesota's economy can grow quicker following the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the state's priorities is to assist with workforce innovation coupled with racial equity. Both COPAL and ACER have been funded by multiple foundations and government agencies to do this work. By funding these proven organizations, they can further expand their already substantiated programs to benefit more of Minnesota's immigrant community and economy.

As Minnesota seeks effective ways to heal the effects of COVID-19 on the immigrant workforce the Afro-Latinx Immigrant COVID-19 Workforce Re-Engagement Project will help steer Minnesota into economic recovery. The Latino Economic Development Center fully supports the Afro-Latinx Immigrant COVID-19 Workforce Re-Engagement Project to fund two worker centers to support immigrants with workforce development, job placement, labor rights, and wealth creation because it will have a meaningful and sustainable impact on Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Henry Jimenez

Executive Director of LEDC



City Council Member Andrew Johnson – 12th Ward

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Minnesota consistently supports workforce development and by promoting immigrants, Minnesota's economy can grow quicker following the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the state's priorities is to assist with workforce innovation coupled with racial equity. Both COPAL and ACER have been funded by multiple foundations and government agencies to do this work. By funding these proven organizations, they can further expand their substantiated programs to benefit more of Minnesota's immigrant community and economy.

As Minnesota seeks effective ways to heal the effects of COVID-19 on the immigrant workforce the Afro-Latinx Immigrant COVID-19 Workforce Re-Engagement Project will help steer Minnesota into economic recovery. My office fully supports the Afro-Latinx Immigrant COVID-19 Workforce Re-Engagement Project to fund two worker centers to support immigrants with workforce development, job placement, labor rights, and wealth creation because it will have a meaningful and sustainable impact on Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Andrew Johnson,
Minneapolis City Council Member – 12th Ward

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 2542

04/17/2021 Authored by Hornstein
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to workforce development; appropriating money to Comunidades
1.3 Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL) and African Career, Education,
1.4 and Resource, Inc. (ACER).

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. APPROPRIATION.

1.7 \$2,450,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$2,450,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from
1.8 the general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development for grants
1.9 to Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL) and African Career,
1.10 Education, and Resource, Inc. (ACER) to address employment disparities for immigrant
1.11 communities affected by COVID-19, which already suffered from disparities in income
1.12 and employment outcomes prior to the pandemic. Funds must be used statewide to support
1.13 job placement, career development, worker rights training, wage theft recovery, and
1.14 development of transferable skills in high-demand fields. Of these amounts, 50 percent is
1.15 for a grant to Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL) and 50
1.16 percent is for a grant to African Career, Education, and Resource, Inc. (ACER).