



COPAL NEWS



NUMBER 2

Exciting News! COPAL Launches Capital Campaign for Latino Center for Community Engagement

Hello community,

Welcome to your go-to source for updates, news, and highlights from COPAL. As we embark on this month's journey, it's time to reflect on our achievements and celebrate our successes.

We're thrilled to announce we kicked off COPAL's capital campaign for the creation of the Latino Center for Community Engagement (LCCE)! Located at 2905 E Lake Street in Minneapolis. COPAL welcomed over 150 attendees to Arbeiter Brewing Company earlier this month for the launch of our capital campaign for the center.

The LCCE will serve as a dynamic hub of unity, celebration, and cultural exchange, embodying the transnational spirit of Latine communities. With construction estimated to begin in July 2025, COPAL aims to raise \$12 million for the project, which will feature an array of community spaces including an art gallery, resource center, cafe, greenhouse, leasing space for partner organizations, and serve as COPAL's administrative headquarters. Let's come together to build a space that honors our heritage and empowers our community!





Furthermore, we are thrilled to announce the launch of our revamped website, copalmn.org, a digital platform designed to serve as a hub for resources, information, and opportunities for our community. With improved navigability and accessibility features, we aim to ensure that everyone can easily access and engage with our work.

Visit us at copalmn.org and be sure to bookmark the page for easy access to valuable resources and updates. As you explore our new website, we encourage you to check out some of the highlights, like the 2023 Impact Report and the Latino Center for Community Engagement.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to building a more inclusive Minnesota for all.

BEHIND THE SCENES IMPACT

A family reached out to express their joy in passing the knowledge test at the Department of Vehicle Services (DVS) and obtaining their temporary practice permit. They were participants in the classes held in Rochester, where they studied the Minnesota driver's manual. They emphasized how COPAL's efforts have empowered them to progress confidently and safely on Minnesota roads.

The Rochester Regional Committee continues to work on developing the 2024 workplan aimed at enhancing the quality of life for Latine communities. We want to amplify the power, voice, and participation of our community by addressing six key issues outlined in the [2024 legislative agenda](#). We firmly believe that enacting these laws in Minnesota will significantly benefit Latine families in Rochester and beyond. Your participation and input are invaluable as we work together to create positive change for our community.

We extend an invitation to the community to join us at the upcoming membership committee meeting on February 24, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at 3705 Fairway Pl. NW, Rochester, MN 55901.



24 de febrero de 2024 / 5:00 p.m.



3705 Fairway Pl. NW, Rochester, MN 55901.





Southern Minnesota Rochester, Minnesota

The Rochester Regional committee met on January 26 to talk and learn about COPAL's 2024 legislative agenda. There, they learned about proposed laws that could benefit Latine communities if passed. Reflecting on the power of community engagement, they emphasized the urgent need to inform and rally community members so that these proposals can become a reality in our state.



We continue our commitment with community well-being by hosting a vaccination event in Rochester on February 3rd. We are pleased to report that a total of 54 individuals received vaccinations during this event.



[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LICENSES FOR ALL](#)





Mankato, Minnesota

The South Central Initiative held a vaccination and community resource event in Mankato, with a total of 49 people, who received the updated COVID-19 dose. The updated dose was administered to individuals ranging from 6 months to older adults. COPAL sees it essential that there are affordable and accessible health resources for our communities. In line with this commitment, our vaccination events feature a local resource table, offering valuable information and support to attendees. We invite you to join us at these events, as we collectively strive to enhance the quality of life for Latines in Minnesota. Thank you to our community partners: Open Door Health Center, the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

YWCA with New American Families have joined the efforts of the One Economy for Minnesota! campaign and our team joined Governor Tim Walz during his visit to Mankato, made possible through our valued community partnership with YWCA.

Finally, thanks to KMSU radio in Mankato, also heard in Austin, Minnesota, we continued our weekly show Saturdays at 2pm inviting the community to COPAL health and wellness events and to join us in our work to improve the quality of life of Latines in Greater Minnesota. These programs are repeated on RadioJornalera.org, on Saturdays at 2pm and Sundays at 10:45am. [Please give us a listen!](#)

Salud y Bienestar



As previously highlighted, the community vaccination event in Rochester was a great success. We were delighted to welcome organizations to our resource tables, including Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Victim Services (Olmsted County), and DEED. The invaluable leadership provided by committee members in coordinating the event and conducting outreach played a pivotal role in its success.





In addition, during January, we successfully hosted COVID-19 and influenza vaccination events. A total of 122 COVID-19 vaccinations were administered at the Workers' Center, and 100 vaccinations were provided at the Ecuadorian consulate. These events featured five resource tables, and we established a partnership with Minneapolis Public Schools including Folwell Elementary, to address the gap in unvaccinated children.

Furthermore, we are excited to announce that the recruitment process for the second cohort of Health Promoters has started, with seven individuals already registered and undergoing training.

Our Health and Wellness team is improving the quality of life in the health field for Latine communities. We extend our gratitude to MDH and the providers who support us in providing resources.





Organizing

The [One Economy for Minnesota!](#) campaign has scaled-up! The dream of this campaign is a Minnesota where ITIN-holders can participate as equals in the state economy, resulting in healthier, safer, and more stable communities for all who call this place home.

An ITIN, or "Individual Tax Identification Number," plays a vital role for many immigrants to pay taxes and support state and national programs. However, ITIN-holders are not afforded the same benefits that are available through a Social Security Number and the lack of it can be a barrier for banking, renting, and paying utilities. Community members gathered this month to share ideas about how to make Minnesota a more welcoming place for ITIN-holders. An hour-long conversation was facilitated by organizers with COPAL and partner organizations in the Vida Digna Coalition, HACER and LatinoLEAD.

There is clear interest from our communities in elevating the campaign to the next level, educating private companies to accept ITINs, and pushing state legislation to protect the rights of immigrants.

We invite you to become more involved with this campaign, as well as other organizing efforts for COPAL's legislative agenda. Sign our petition [HERE](#) to join us.

It's tax season!
Did you know you may be eligible for the following credits?

- Child Tax Credit
- Renter's Income Tax Credit
- Working Family Credit
- Property Tax Refund
- K-12 Education Credit

(612) 249-8736
Call COPAL's Navigator Line at (612) 249-8736 to get connected to a bilingual tax preparer!

Service made available through a grant provided by the state of Minnesota.

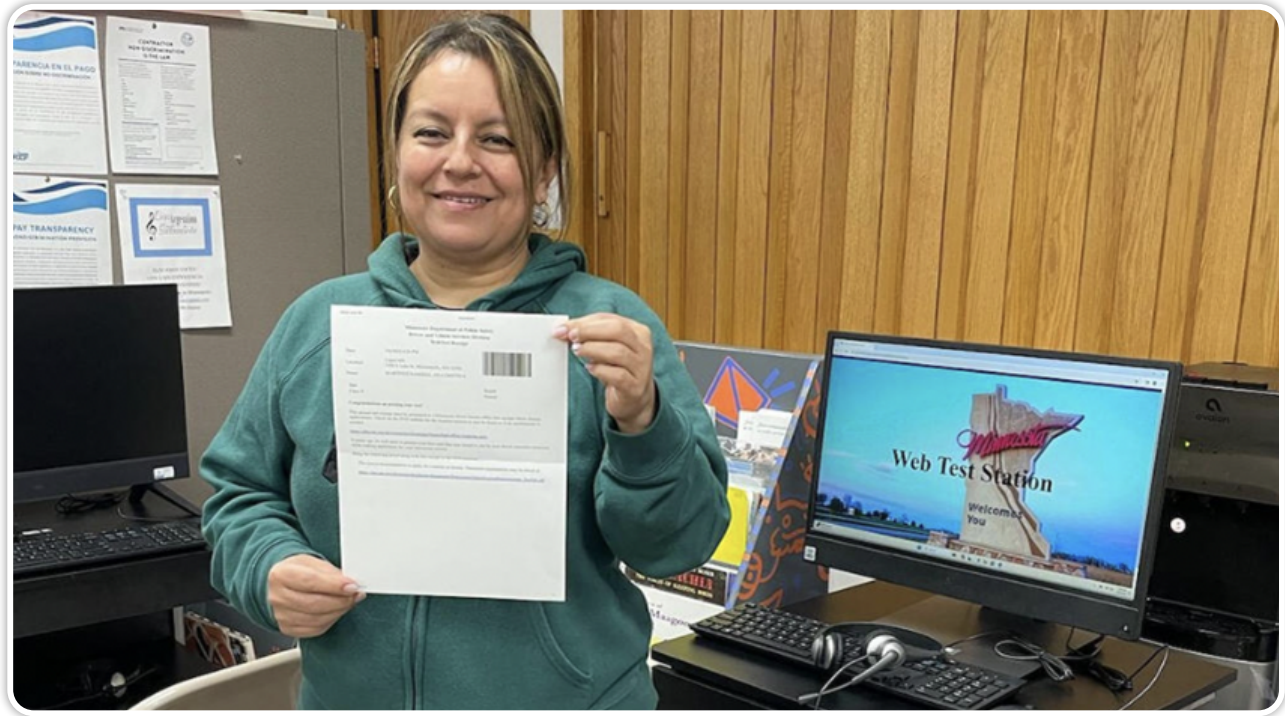
m DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE





Primero de Mayo Workers' Center

We are now offering the written driving exam in Minnesota (without the practical driving exam)! As part of our commitment to the community, the Workers' Center is facilitating the opportunity for our community to obtain their licenses to be able to drive without fear.



IMPORTANT DETAILS:

- This exam is only for the theoretical/written part and does not include the driving test.
- Please call-in advance to schedule an appointment at (612) 249-8736.
- This offer is available for those taking the test for the first, second, or third time.
- We are asking for a donation of \$10 to cover administrative costs.

Contact us for more details and to schedule a time to take the test!

The Workers' Center serves as a community hub, offering support and knowledge to immigrant communities across the Twin Cities and beyond. You can reach us at (612) 249-8736 for more information.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PRIMERO DE MAYO WORKERS' CENTER HERE





Environmental Justice

COPAL was part of several networks that attended the GFMD: Women in Migration Network, the Climate Migration Displacement Platform, the Action Committee, and the Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration. The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is the largest state-led, informal, voluntary, and non-binding process that brings together expertise across governments and stakeholders from all regions and countries, that is 'state-led but not state-only.' It provides a flexible, multi-stakeholder space where governments can discuss the multi-dimensional aspects, opportunities, and challenges related to migration, development, and the link between these two areas.



COPAL present at the Grassroots Forum on Migration Governance!

The delegation also held bilateral meetings with State Delegations and discussed with Mayors and the private sector initiatives to advance migration governance. Carolina Ortiz, Associate Executive Director of COPAL, was part of Alianza Americas' delegation to the GFMD, to bring to the forefront the voices and concerns of migrants and their organizations.

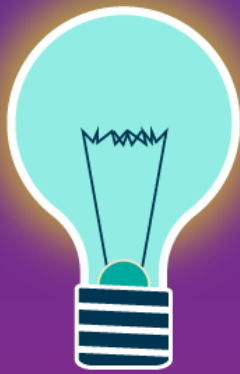


LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORK HERE





☆☆☆ TIP OF THE MONTH ☆☆☆



Valentine's Day has just passed, but we still want to encourage your mental health journey with the following self-care tip:

Tapping technique (for reducing anxiety)

In the following order, touch each of the following points three times using the tip of your middle and index fingers:

- Eyebrow
- Side of the eye
- Under the eye
- Under the nose
- Chin
- Clavicle
- Under the arm
- Above the head

We at COPAL can do this work thanks to your support.



Make a donation to increase opportunities and foster a dignified life for Latinos in Minnesota!



Mental Health Resources

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, please contact the MN Mental Health Crisis Line:



****CRISIS or **274747**

Dial from your cell phone and you will be connected to your county crisis team.

Please see the following summary of mental health, general health and dental services compiled by the Minnesota Department of Health for the lowest cost or at scale. Look at the column that specifies if they have interpreters or people who speak Spanish.

Low-cost healthcare resources



Radio Jornalera has grown and now has five weekly shows every day of the week and our daily morning show, *El Jornal de la Alegría* with Mike Castillo every weekday from 7 to 10am.



Tune in here



Download the app.

If you liked this newsletter, share it so others can read it!



SUBSCRIBE



COPAL

WWW.COPALMN.ORG

Established in 2018, COPAL is a member-based organization leading social impact initiatives to improve the quality of life for Latine families and communities. COPAL advocates for a legislative agenda and mobilizes the Latine community to take action on issues that impact their lives such as health care for all, dignity for workers, environmental justice, popular democracy, immigration and public safety, and education for all by building collective power, transforming systems, and creating opportunities for a dignified life. COPAL envisions a future where the Latine community thrives and is fully empowered to lead significant change in their communities and beyond.