



# COPAL NEWS



## NUMBER 7

### Hola comunidad,

Welcome to our July newsletter, where we bring you the latest updates and exciting news from COPAL. As we dive into the heart of summer, there's plenty to share with you!

## SOUTHEAST INITIATIVE ROCHESTER, MN

Our team at COPAL Rochester has been diligently working with individuals who visit our office seeking information to obtain immigration legal advice, employment support, assistance with medical bills, driver's licenses, programs and services available, and knowledge exam preparation at the DVS.



The COPAL team provides resources to the community at a community health event in Rochester

- On June 18, we participated in a community health event in Elgin, MN, held at Tri Valley Head Start. COPAL coordinated a COVID-19 vaccination clinic where, in addition to vaccinations, we distributed smartwatches to encourage our community to prioritize their health.
- On June 29, we conducted a Workplace Health workshop where participants learned about some of the most common hazards at work. All attendees received participation certificates and left feeling better prepared to identify workplace risks and be able to report incidents to OSHA.
- On June 27, COPAL's Rochester staff was invited to attend the Annual Partner Celebration hosted by Olmsted United Way. This year, COPAL Southeast Initiative applied and was chosen, along with two other organizations, to receive a grant to support our civic engagement work in the Latine community. This achievement will benefit our community by empowering them to use their voice to advocate for more just and inclusive policies.





## How can you get involved?

We are establishing a regional committee of members in Rochester and invite you to join us in our efforts to create positive changes that promote equality, justice, and prosperity for Latine families. Our next regional committee meeting will be on **Saturday, July 27 at 6pm in Rochester**, where we will discuss topics relevant to Latines in southeast Minnesota and how you can get involved!

*And don't forget! The COPAL Southeast Initiative office in Rochester is open Monday through Friday from 1pm to 5pm. To schedule an appointment, please call (612) 249-8736.*

## Don't Miss Our Next Event!

Mark your calendars for our exciting Community Health Event on July 24 in Owatonna, MN! Join us at the health fair organized by Tri Valley Head Start from 3:30pm to 7pm at 565 20th St NE. COPAL will be there offering COVID-19 vaccinations, physical and dental exams, prescription fills, and screenings for diabetes and cholesterol, alongside other essential medical services—all free of charge! You can register [here](#).

## SOUTH CENTRAL INITIATIVE MANKATO, MN

Our South Central team has played a pivotal role in local community events in St. Peter and Mankato, where we have provided vital resources such as COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Additionally, we have been offering classes to study the Minnesota driver's manual and are working to open up a knowledge exam center to obtain a driver's license in South Central Minnesota

We are excited about the upcoming Back-to-School Fair in Madelia and Mankato, where we will have resource booths, backpacks, and school supplies for the community. We recently hosted Vice Governor

Peggy Flanagan, who visited to learn about our impactful work in the South Central Minnesota area. During her visit, our team highlighted some of our achievements from the ITIN campaign and other legislative victories championed by community members, organizations, and elected officials.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our community partners: Open Door Health Center, Greater Mankato Diversity Council, Nicollet County, Mi Reembolso, and you, for helping us turn our vision into reality! Your support has been invaluable in advancing our mission.

If you haven't already, we invite you to join the [South Central Committee](#) and contribute to building an inclusive community where everyone can thrive. Together, we can make a lasting impact and create positive change.



COPAL's South Central Initiative team with Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan.





## PRIMERO DE MAYO WORKERS CENTER

During the past month, our team has been actively involved in various initiatives to strengthen our community. We implemented workshops focused on the health and safety of minors, as well as raising awareness about chemical hazards in workplace settings. Simultaneously, we launched a scholarship aimed at young individuals about to start college, and we're excited to announce that we've received 20 applications, with half of them set to benefit from this opportunity! Additionally, we've been offering weekly workshops for those seeking employment, covering everything from resume-building to interview preparation, and using public transportation and translators to improve communication.

Looking ahead, we are excited to offer new workshops specifically designed to prepare the selected scholarship recipients for their upcoming educational journey.

### What else have we been up to?

- A recent notable achievement includes receiving recognition from the Minnesota Attorney General's Office due to a wage theft case affecting a group of workers participating in our programs, highlighting the positive impact of our advocacy among Latine workers.
- We have strengthened our collaboration with Representative Ilhan Omar's office, facilitating the resolution of work permit issues for workers and ensuring a more streamlined process and effective legal support.



A weekly workshop on road safety at the Primero de Mayo Workers' Center

We invite everyone to participate in our programs and educational workshops, designed to promote labor rights and provide training in technology use. In particular, we highlight our program for senior citizens, which includes access to tablets, thus providing essential tools for their digital empowerment.







## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

During June, we continued our commitment to the health of our community through vaccination clinics. Furthermore, we successfully completed the third session of Preventive Community Health classes that covered topics such as navigating Minnesota's healthcare system and healthy strategies for stress management.

We continue to make a significant impact through preventive activities and by promoting updated COVID-19 vaccination among the Latine community. We also focus our efforts on educating about chronic diseases, healthy lifestyles, and mental health.

We actively participated in the MPS Summer Celebration and Resource Fair on June 13th at Whittier International Elementary School in Minneapolis. During this event, we shared crucial information about resources offered by COPAL, as well as information on mental health, cardiovascular disease prevention, and access to low-cost medical care or insurance through the state. We engaged in approximately 200 meaningful conversations with attendees. We also collaborated with Ascension Church in Minneapolis, through a community resource fair, where we shared vital information about community resources and preventive health.



Our team at the MPS Summer Celebration and Resource Fair



### VACCINATION EVENT:

**JULY 29**  
9 AM - 1 PM



**CONSULATE  
OF ECUADOR**

2310 Central Ave NE,  
Minneapolis, MN 55418





## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

In June, COPAL's Environmental Justice team, along with a youth leader, attended the CPD's Green Social Housing retreat in North Carolina. During the event, COPAL met with organizations from over 10 states to strategize on the next steps in CPD's national housing campaign.



COPAL attending the Green Social Housing retreat in North Carolina

Our commitment is to support the construction of a "green" housing system, which entails ensuring that heating and cooling systems are safe, healthy, and clean. Additionally, infrastructure such as apartment buildings should have solar panels and be weather-resistant to reduce environmental impact, while ensuring equitable and affordable access for BIPOC communities.

During the retreat, community members engaged in two actions: one advocating for the rights of mobile home tenants and another in support of a family facing unjustified eviction. COPAL supported these actions, defending housing dignity and delving into the impact of corporate landlords on the housing system at large.





## ORGANIZING

What a fantastic day it was at COPAL Family Day! We extend our heartfelt thanks to the community, COPAL members, and families who joined us in celebrating our victories. Together, we are making strides towards a more inclusive Minnesota.

This year marks another significant milestone for COPAL as we reflect on our achievements. Thanks to the dedication of our members, we have successfully advocated for laws allowing ITIN holders to rent without needing a Social Security number. Additionally, we have empowered tenants to organize and improve their living conditions. These victories are a testament to our ongoing commitment to make Minnesota a better place for all our people.

Join us as we continue our journey to create positive change and build a stronger community. Together, we can achieve even more for a brighter future in Minnesota.

## WE ARE HIRING!

We're excited to announce that we are expanding our team and looking for passionate individuals to join us. If you're ready to make an impact, we want to hear from you! Explore our open positions and [apply today](#).



The poster features a central illustration of diverse people holding signs and a megaphone, with the word 'COPAL' in large, bold letters. Below this, the text 'We're Hiring! ¡Estamos Contratando!' is displayed in orange and teal. A list of job openings is provided in two columns, with English and Spanish versions side-by-side. At the bottom, there is a QR code, a phone number, the website URL, and social media icons.

**COPAL**  
**We're Hiring!**  
**¡Estamos Contratando!**

Lead Organizer	• •	Líder Organizador
Membership		Membresía
Financial Controller	• •	Controlador Financiero
Adult Employment & Career Counselor	• •	Consejero de empleo y Carrera para Adultos
Environmental Justice Advocate	• •	Defensor de Justicia Ambiental

Apply here  
Aplique aquí



 (612) 875-2349

  
www.COPALMN.org

  





## ¡COPAL IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

- [Millions of dollars are available in federal and state energy rebates. How can you take part?](#)
- [Biden order streamlining path to citizenship for spouses could affect 40,000 Minnesotans.](#)
- [United Way of Olmsted County funds \\$1.1 million in community investments.](#)
- [A victory for environmental justice in Minnesota.](#)
- [Local movement pushing for temporary protected status for Ecuadorians gains momentum.](#)
- [United Way approves investments in civic engagement programs in SE Minnesota.](#)





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](http://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.