

# Meeting Minutes

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## Latinx Community COVID19 Response Monday, April 20, 2020

### Logistics:

- CM Cano will no longer be sending out calendar invite. Everyone who wants to continue to participate please make your own recurring calendar invite for every Monday from 12-1:30 PM. You can copy and paste information from the agenda.
- Transitioning out of Zoom platform: City Staff and IT/saying Zoom is not as secure as other platforms. Please share preferred platform (Web Ex and Microsoft Teams were mentioned in the chat).
- If you have a calendar note associated with our outlook calendar, please delete it.

### Kendal Killian, Rep. Ilhan Omar's office:

- Priorities: pushing for more funding for cities and local funding.
- CARES Act did not provide for direct funding for any city in MN.
- Funding did go to Hennepin County.
- Talk this week of a smaller "interim" package passed at federal level; not likely to happen but priority has been communicated.
- Important to continue to advocate for funding from federal gov't to states, county and cities.
- Rent and mortgage cancellation act—drafted by Rep. Omar would institute: a national cancellation of rents and mortgage payments throughout pandemic; no accumulation of rent, no impact on credit. National and local groups support, and co-signers on bill include Rep. Ocasio Cortez, Rashida Talib. Momentum is building for the bill.
  - Bill: <https://omar.house.gov/sites/omar.house.gov/files/Bill%20Text%20-%20Rent%20and%20Mortgage%20Cancellation%20Act%5B1%5D.pdf>
  - Details: <https://omar.house.gov/sites/omar.house.gov/files/Omar%20-%20Rent%20%26%20Mortgage%20Cancellation%20Act%20-One%20Pager%20and%20Legislative%20Framework.pdf>
  - News recap: <https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/video/4518092-rep-ilhan-omar-proposes-bill-to-cancel-rent/>
- Town hall this Thursday at noon with Maureen Ramirez, MN Dept of Employment and Economic Development on accessing unemployment insurance. CARES includes gig workers but state offices have not been able to operationalize this so far. Asking people to apply and be rejected, that will lay down marker to allow reference point once. Send questions regarding event to Kendal.
  - Kendal Killian: [kendal.killian@mail.house.gov](mailto:kendal.killian@mail.house.gov)
  - Link to town hall:
- Q: connection on assisting through county—employment, housing and food are the three major items that we need to continue to be a voice—can you help mobilizing internally with county. Answer: we are in regular communications with Hennepin County
- Note: CDFI's did not qualify for PPPs, make sure that next round takes care of CDFI's that work with small businesses. Answer: Omar's office has a good contact at SBA
- Next round of funding likely to come through by next week. A lot of funding went to large operation chains, instead of smaller operations including nonprofits—that will continue to be priority for Omar's office.
- Q: talks about other packages coming? People who don't qualify for financial aid? A: Yes, no definite timeline, that's where funding for cities will likely get punted to. Some political gamesmanship, house is needed but so is president's signature

### **Nico Bauer, Office of Governor Tim Walz:**

- Email: [Nico.bauer@state.mn.us](mailto:Nico.bauer@state.mn.us)
- Gov and Lt Governor community resiliency group—leadership with Lt governor and Comm’r Lucero. Focus—people disproportionately impacted considered in policy making in communications, outreach and other response activities.
- Translated informational materials: <https://mn.gov/covid19/media/share-message/translations/>
- Focus on most vulnerable populations.
- MN Dept of health expedited grant process is now live. To provide grants to community organizations and businesses to present timely and accurate information and communities—proposals due one week from today. Info here: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/equity/funding/covidmedia.html>
- Question/Comment: originally did proposal for all ethnic media for state. Nothing came of it other than phone call—no one from Gov office or State Dept of Health showed up for call.
- Q: work group around recovery/resilience: how will group work and how is it composed? Is it with other commissioners? A: various agencies across the enterprise. Likely will be high ranking officials from all the agencies. Will likely rely on community partners to keep finger on the pulse. More information will be forthcoming.
- Q: Henry from LEDC: CRR is a great component but feels like coming to be formed after some major decisions have been made already—have a lot of interest of people to be part of that, some major decisions coming this week. Important to communicate that to community.
- Alondra: important to have Latinos on task force. On par to become largest minority community in the state of Minnesota.

### **City of Minneapolis:**

Heidi Ritchie from Mayor’s office—City of Minneapolis updates on COVID response work

- Housing Gap Fund page, including both housing and business assistance funding. For Housing funding applications will be accepted 9AM on Wednesday through Noon Monday. Allows education outreach before application.
  - <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/gap-funding>
- Business fund—application closed ½ hour ago. Will take a few days if not a week to review applications. Will take time to disburse funds.
- Q: Is housing assistance fund still going out to landlords? Yes, landlords or utility companies. What will people do for tenants—how will the city step in if landlords still choose to evict families if next month they are not able to pay. A: Call to reopen, there is pressure. Once the emergency is lifted will likely be in conjunction with lifting eviction moratoriums—definitely something we need to think about-welcome thoughts
- Q: since housing assistance money is going to landlords, tenants don’t need to worry about it being counted as extra income. Cano: will team up with reg services to make sure that no illegal evictions are taking place.
- Question/comment—CLUES: thanks CM Cano specifically. CLUES will be issuing their first checks tomorrow. What they issue will never be able to cover needs. There is still a gap. What we provide is for food/household emergencies. When debt is \$1600 and only getting \$200 check, it is clear that more help at state level is needed.

CM Cano:

- City’s fund will not be able to provide direct cash assistance

### **Michelle Rivero, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs:**

- **City of Mpls Health Department Grant**—up to \$15,000 for COVID-19 response activities. Submit applications by email at [health@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:health@minneapolismn.gov). Deadline is Friday April 24 at 11:59PM.
  - <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/GrantsRFPs/index.htm>
  - <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@health/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-223921.pdf>

- Projects can be focused on direct response, support efforts or other byproducts of the pandemic such as food, shelter and health (mental or physical) and safety needs. The intent of the COVID-19 Community Response funds is to support community-led strategies.
- **Immigration Detention**
  - <https://sahanjournal.com/>
  - Michelle has filed a Freedom of Information Act Request to find out how many immigrants are in detention facilities in the state of Minnesota
  - Minnesota Freedom fund: pays immigration bonds for people in immigration custody: <https://minnesotafreedomfund.org/>
  - If you know someone in immigration custody please reach out to Michelle at: [oira@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:oira@minneapolismn.gov)
- **Gap Fund:**
  - Gap fund application process for housing will open on Wednesday April 22 until Monday April 27 at 12:00 noon. Information available in Spanish here:
  - <http://minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/gap-funding>
  - Questions: leave message at 612-302-3129
  - They are fully staffed through the weekend so Sat/Sun are work days in their model. People are encouraged to call the number even if they aren't sure about their application.
- **Public Charge**
  - US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has indicated that some COVID-19 related assistance will not be considered in the public charge determination. Additional information can be found here: <https://www.uscis.gov/greencard/public-charge>.
  - Minneapolis residents with questions about "public charge" should consult with a free, safe immigration legal services provider. Call 1-800-292-4150 M-F 9AM-4PM and say "public charge."
- **Additional immigration legal service Support:**
  - Advocates for Human Rights: <https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/>
  - Volunteer Lawyers Network: <https://www.vlnmn.org/blog>
  - Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota: <https://www.ilcm.org/covid-19/updates-covid-19/>
  - Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs  
webpage: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/oira/index.htm>
- **TAX issues**
  - low-income people who don't file federal tax returns and don't get federal benefits can't get their Economic Impact ("Stimulus") Payments automatically. They will have to complete an online form at the IRS website. Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid's Low Income Taxpayer Clinic. Call intake line (that serves entire State of MN) at: 612-334-5970.

### **Maria Regan Gonzalez, Mayor of Richfield:**

My contact info: Cell # to share with constituents/community- 612-500-3862, City email-

[mregan@richfieldmn.gov](mailto:mregan@richfieldmn.gov), Blue Cross email- [maria.regan@bluecrossmn.com](mailto:maria.regan@bluecrossmn.com)

**Rent and Small business assistance-** Cities are taking votes right now on their assistance or recently have voted on them. Most cities don't have the capacity or infrastructure to administer the rent assistance themselves so they are doing so via local non-profits that already do emergency rent assistance in their communities.

- A. **Richfield:** \$100k for rent assistance, \$150k for small business assistance (0% interest, 50% forgivable in 2020, 50% in 2021)
- B. **SLP:** \$168k for rent assistance (via non-profit STEP, St. Louis Park Emergency Program) and \$200k for small business with portions specifically targeting POCI communities, open to all(SLP Community Development staff)
- C. **Minnetonka:** \$225k for small business, vote on \$175K for rent assistance tonight, open to all residents regardless of immigration status
- D. **Brooklyn Center:** Currently working on both rent assistance and SBA that undocumented folks are eligible for, I don't have more info sorry!
- E. **Bloomington:** \$200k in rent assistance to VEAP, unsure about SBA assistance \$.

F. **Edina:** \$100k for rent assistance via VEAP, HRA \$100 SBA forgivable loans

**VEAP:** Non-profit serving Minneapolis (only South of 50<sup>th</sup> and west of Cedar Ave) Richfield, Bloomington, Edina. Rent, food assistance and social services.

- Job posting: <https://veap.org/veap-is-hiring-join-our-team/>
- Job description: Temporary Part-Time (30 hours per week, at least 6 months in duration with the possibility of extension) | Hourly (\$19) | Non-Exempt. Reports to Social Services Director, [Access full job description](#). How to Apply: Please submit resume and cover letter [Careers@veap.org](mailto:Careers@veap.org) (preferred) or VEAP Careers, 9600 Aldrich Avenue, South, Bloomington, MN 55420. Deadline is 5:00 pm May 1, 2020 to guarantee review of application. No phone inquiries please.

**La Red Latina de Educacion Temprana** supports for informal family, friend and neighbor childcare providers. Search them on Facebook, main contact- Ruth Evangelista, #952-452-2430

**BCBS update/BCBS Foundation, Blue Cross Foundation COVID Response Grants Update:**

- We received 176 applications totaling more than \$3.6M.
- We have selected 36 organizations for a total of \$756,240.
- The majority of the orgs (69%) are constituent-led – led by people of color, indigenous people, LGBTQ people, immigrants, and others,
- The majority of dollars (74%) is directed to those groups.
- Geographic distribution: 22 metro, 14 greater MN.
- Announcement early this week

**Summary from guideline re priorities:** Grants are for a six-month period from the date funding is awarded. Priority focus areas include but are not limited to child care for health care workers, emergency workers and other priority populations; emergency food shelf and food delivery for vulnerable people; support for people experiencing economic insecurity; anti-xenophobia and anti-bias efforts related to COVID-19; and homelessness or housing insecurity exacerbated by the crisis. Priority applicants include those who are current Foundation grantees and/or nonprofit partners of the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. Other nonprofits with unique capabilities to serve vulnerable populations may also apply. Vulnerable populations include older adults, people who are immunocompromised, indigenous and people of color (IPOC), LGBTQ and people with disabilities.

\*Notes captured via conversation:

- Thank you to Alondra and leaders on call advocating for community
- Cities in MN and across the country are losing millions. Need to make difficult budget decisions—talking with Mayors across MN—working in emergency mode-starting to have conversations regarding mid and long-term planning.
- Smaller cities are not qualifying for assistance. Not adaptive enough.
- We are advocating for flexible support for our small businesses and for our cities
- Undocumented folks are eligible.
- As questions come up, we are checking with our staff and making sure that other cities are taking concerns expressed into account.
- In all cases money will go to landlords directly.
- Also have assistance for small businesses—forgivable 0% interest loans to small businesses in community. Richfield loans up to \$7500. Those are being administered by city's economic development authority.
- VEAP is hiring someone to handle influx of calls. Want a community member who really does know community. Information here:
  - <https://veap.org/veap-is-hiring-join-our-team/>
- VEAP Bilingual Housing Specialist job announcement:

- <https://veap.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/VEAP-Job-Description-Temporary-Part-time-Bilingual-Housing-Specialist.pdf>
- La Red Latina de Education Temprana—informal child care providers—if you are a child care provider and you need support or have questions specific to child care—helping people across the state
- Blue Cross blue Shield of MN—3 rounds of funding—decided to close down funding for 2<sup>nd</sup> and third round because they had lots of applications for first round. Received 200 applications totaling \$4 million of requests. Will send out stats of orgs that got funded. Formal notice will come out today.
- Policy group??? Blue cross is interested in hearing about health concerns.
- Ambar: Economy revolving around child care—it's informal not at decision-making tables—great person to talk to at state level is Marisol Chiclana Alayna.
- State passed COVID support package but there was zero support for family friend and neighbors support providers. Child care providers are being mistreated—these are human rights and workers concerns. If foundations can step in, we have access to over 300 of them.
- Ruby Lee—CLUES can guide people to apply for funds. Also noted deficiency around early childhood education.
- Latino Lead would like to receive info re Blue Cross Blue Shield to share information about disparities.

### Philanthropic Community:

- Ambar: opportunities—seeing movement in response to letter sent from Latinx community—hopefully people are getting calls from funders. Bill Graves/Ambar/Irma/Linking leaders (CAAL, African American Leadership and TOWAHE) putting together a forum to get funders at the table to discuss how to best support communities of color and indigenous communities. Trying to get commitments—Mortensen—just got approval for 1 million dollars. Will be distributed within already existing partners—from BIPOC communities including latinx. We are leading by example and continue to influence other funders to give above and beyond—giving same amounts if not more. Suggestion--be vocal in asking about how much people are giving and demanding that people ask for more. MN Council of nonprofits call—will have more updates next week.
- Otto Bremer is still taking grant applications—if you have been denied apply again. Suggest applying for grants and loans.
- Ruby Lee: shared some updates about donations made to CLUES fund. We have \$30,000 from individuals—unheard of for us. Without push from entire community would not have happened. Tomorrow will start issuing first checks. Started taking applications, have received approx 500. Will have people in Mpls and St Paul office making contributions. Also getting a lot of calls from Worthington MN. If there are specific connections—gift cards for food—see how we can pass on some money
- Outstate issues/Worthington Pork plant. JBS has closed but is continuing to pay workers:
  - <https://www.fox9.com/news/jbs-closing-worthington-minnesota-pork-plant-indefinitely-due-to-covid-19-cases>
- Stimulus check donations to CLUES begun by Christian Ledesma at Wellstone—Thank you Christian!!

### Policy Conversation:

- Intro to subject: getting public policy changes at various levels of govt based upon the lived experience of community members. Worth focusing and dedicating collective energy to change
- **TOWN HALL**, The Unequal Impact of COVID19 on the Latino Community:
  - April 22 - 6 pm CST
  - [bit.ly/UnidosUSTownHall](https://bit.ly/UnidosUSTownHall)
  - Speakers:
    - Rep. Joaquin Castro-Chair Latino Congressional Caucus
    - Janet Murguía-UnidosUS
    - Dr. Richar Besser
    - Robert Wood Johnson Fdn.
- Local progress conference call/helping undocumented immigrant community by:
  - trying to change federal law so that people with ITIN numbers are able to get federal government assistance.
  - Shutting down ICE detention centers on border

### Irma Trapero, Latino LEAD:

- Philanthropic: MN Council of Foundation president is having a convening. Irma and Veena from ILCM will be part of that. Suggested reaching out to Emilia, Ruby and Rosa as potential panelists and speakers. Date is April 30, will be a zoom/webinar.
- Policy: Latino Lead is collaborating with MCLA for a meeting with Governor's office to request town hall. Timeline will likely be next week. Finalizing details, will be after 5:30 because we want people from greater MN to be able to join. Either Mon or Tues of next week. Rosa and Irma will share info
- MN Budget Surplus: We have shared initial concerns, shared importance of prioritizing support to community
- Next steps—will connect with subcommittee that want to continue this conversation. Will create a survey to gather more input. Hope that this can be shared out, including greater MN. Will have 15-20 minutes to do 1 ask with Governor's office. Will follow up with a letter re all recommendations.
- Core policy team: Sandy V., Ruby L., Consul Guerrero, Katie A., Rosa T., Alondra C., Roxana L., Fernando B (R.Linares asked to be part of group) andy/Ruby/Monica/Katie/Alondra—if you want to be part of group, reach out to Rosa and Irma.
- Large group discussion—share recommendations to draft coming from Latinx community to governor's office:
  - Suggestion: organizing a power map—we can go in as latinx community, but the reason that people are here is because of work and employers. How do we create alliances, especially alliances in businesses that utilize many undocumented workers. How do we bring those alliances forward, in greater MN where there is huge pushback on the question of immigrants/undocumented immigrants. Policy makers need to hear from others who are in alliance with us.
  - Suggestion: We have had already different structures set up for alliances, including drivers licenses, what are some already established partnerships with chamber of commerce. Piggybacking on work that we have already done in the past in establishing relationships. What do we already have in place?
  - Are we offering input on everything or organizing on health care, drivers licenses, housing. Laws that we have in place right now do not protect people including undocumented people. How to make the argument for self interest on the other side.
  - Access: how can our communities have access. Ask Governor to use his power to eliminate barriers
  - Recommendation by Cano: Op Ed on the exclusion of undocumented families from all levels of government aid
  - Ambar: if stay at home ends sooner than it should —people will not have a choice on going back to work. What kinds of protections do people have when we start to move out of this, if we move out of it too quickly. May Day-historically our communities have been part of a strike/staying home for dia de Los trabajadores. If that happens now more than every that will be felt within our state—does anyone know if events are being organized that we should plug into?
  - Access to health care—think about ways to try to change current definition of emergency medical assistance—that is one of the programs that DHS manages now—is there a way that group could suggest changing —to secure access to programs. May still need legislative authority.
  - Leaders even at the federal level don't have good ideas and are dependent upon community to come up with good ideas—don't necessarily overthink this. Talk to whoever is listening and telling them what we need.
  - Nico/Gov Walz office: knowing about issues in advance of next week is helpful. More conversation happening on the front end, the better. Nico posted email address, pls reach out directly, will give time to contact experts across the agency to ensure we have best information.

- CM Cano: the best way to shape the work is by having a meeting with the Governor. Prioritize that meeting so we can get a sense of what's viable and what's not. Otherwise we may lose our window of opportunity to make an impact and help community right now.
- Please complete MCLA survey:  
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMCLA/bulletins/28672b9>

#### **Henry Jimenez, LEDC:**

- Small Business Emergency Loan Fund-LEDC was contracted to process \$1 million of that. Focusing mostly on Latino Businesses. On pace to exhaust in next 10 days, planning to ask for another \$500,000 from deed.
- Senate will convene today/tomorrow around fund. \$30 million provided. LEDC got \$1 million. Convo is to inject that fund to more funds. Because of politics, has to go through Senate. Focus on businesses with less than 20 FTEs. If fund happens (talking up to 50 million) dedicated to 19-23 organizations, LEDC would be included. This is happening this week. Henry may be testifying in the House on Thursday.

#### **Veena Iyer, Immigrant Law Center MN:**

- DACA-- Today, the Supreme Court accepted a supplemental brief in the DACA case. The brief presented arguments as to why it would be particularly harmful to end DACA in the midst of this crisis. According to Supreme Court experts, this is unlikely to alter the Supreme Court's timeline for preparing and issuing the decision. Just as a recap, the decision should be issued by the end of June, and the earliest a decision could be issued is this Thursday (the next day the court is scheduled to potentially issue decision). Note that ILCM is continuing to assist folks with DACA renewals and is monitoring the Supreme Court and is prepared to respond with outreach and legal services as soon as a decision comes out.
  - <https://www.scotusblog.com/>
  - <https://www.ilcm.org/>
- ILCM is advising people to file renewals and people should contact ILCM for assistance: <https://www.ilcm.org/contact/> Information is provided in Spanish.
  - COVID-19 resources in indigenous languages:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/u/2/d/1HMRXQOpAY9-o62C3uPPDckHmVpunz31zsPhWE\\_hsMno/mobilebasic](https://docs.google.com/document/u/2/d/1HMRXQOpAY9-o62C3uPPDckHmVpunz31zsPhWE_hsMno/mobilebasic)
  - COVID-19 video in MAM and Spanish:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-nrN1JdZLQ&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-nrN1JdZLQ&feature=emb_title)
  - Also, detainees should feel free to contact ILCM's detention line. The number is 651-641-1011, and is open Mondays: 2-4 p.m. and Thursdays: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.