



Shiva Bidar-Sielaff
Board Chair
Latino Academy of Workforce Development
2909 Landmark Place, Suite 203
Madison, WI 53713

October 7, 2025

Dane County CDBG Commission
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Support for the Latino Academy of Workforce Development's Business Accelerator Program

Dear Members of the Dane County CDBG Commission,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Latino Academy of Workforce Development (LAWD), we want to express our sincere thanks for recommending \$97,500 in funding for our Business Accelerator Program under the 2026 CDBG Economic Development Program. We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership and commitment to advancing economic opportunity in Dane County. By combining bilingual instruction, practical business tools, and individualized mentoring, the program helps community members build the skills and confidence to launch and sustain their businesses.

Although our roots are in the Latino community, LAWD proudly serves everyone in Dane County. We believe that when Latino and immigrant small business owners succeed, the entire community benefits through new jobs, innovation, and economic growth. This investment is critical for our organization as we continue to expand access to entrepreneurship training and create more pathways to financial stability for working families.

The Board of Directors is enthusiastic and fully supports this program. We believe it will strengthen our capacity to meet community needs and have a lasting impact on the local economy.

Thank you for considering this important funding opportunity for the Latino Academy of Workforce Development. We look forward to continuing to work with the Dane County CDBG Commission to build a stronger, more inclusive economy for all residents of Dane County.

With appreciation,

Shiva Bidar-Sielaff
Chair, Board of Directors
The Latino Academy of Workforce Development, Inc.
On behalf of the Board of Directors



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Re: Support for the Latino Academy of Workforce Development's Career-Based GED Education Program

Dear Members of the Dane County CDBG Commission,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Latino Academy of Workforce Development (LAWD), we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for your recommendation of \$36,000 in funding for our Career-Based GED Education Program under the 2026 CDBG Public Services Program. Your continued support reflects a shared commitment to advancing education and opportunity for all residents of Dane County.

This program is central to our mission—to create access to education, workforce training, and career advancement opportunities that lead to lasting economic mobility. Through bilingual instruction and personalized support, our GED program helps working adults take the first step toward higher education, better jobs, and lasting financial stability.

While our work is rooted in the Latino community, LAWD proudly serves everyone in Dane County. We believe that when all residents have access to education and skills training, our entire community grows stronger, more resilient, and more connected. This funding is especially important now, as many adult learners face barriers heightened by today's social and economic challenges.

The Board of Directors is fully supportive and deeply enthusiastic about this program. We believe it will make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of our students and strengthen LAWD's capacity to deliver high-quality educational services across the county.

Thank you for considering this important funding opportunity for the Latino Academy of Workforce Development. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Dane County CDBG Commission to open doors to education, employment, and brighter futures for our community.

With appreciation,

Shiva Bidar-Sielaff
Chair, Board of Directors
The Latino Academy of Workforce Development, Inc.
On behalf of the Board of Directors



October 7, 2025

Dane County CDBG Commission
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Support for the Latino Academy of Workforce Development's 2026 CDBG-Funded Programs

Dear Members of the Dane County CDBG Commission,

On behalf of Centro and the Wisconsin Latino Chamber of Commerce, we want to express our appreciation for your recommendation to fund two critical programs at the Latino Academy of Workforce Development (LAWD): the Business Accelerator Program under the 2026 CDBG Economic Development and the Career-Based GED Education Program under the 2026 CDBG Public Services.

These programs address some of the most urgent needs of Latino and immigrant communities in Dane County, which make up the largest minority group in the region. Together, they help bridge two essential pathways to opportunity—education and entrepreneurship. In today's challenging environment, where many families are navigating economic uncertainty and barriers to advancement, investing in programs that build skills, confidence, and business capacity is more important than ever.

LAWD's mission to create access to education, workforce training, and entrepreneurship opportunities aligns closely with our shared commitment to fostering equity and economic mobility. As Latino-led and Latino-serving organizations, Centro, the Latino Chamber, and LAWD are united in our efforts to address the multiple and interconnected needs of our community. This collaboration ensures that individuals have access to comprehensive support—from education and workforce training to business growth and community leadership.

Importantly, these programs don't just benefit Latino residents—they strengthen the economic and social fabric of all of Dane County. When Latino workers and entrepreneurs thrive, the entire region grows stronger, more inclusive, and more resilient.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important funding opportunity for the Latino Academy of Workforce Development. We look forward to continuing to partner with the Dane County CDBG Commission to create meaningful pathways to success for our community.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Menéndez Coller".

Karen Menéndez Coller
Executive Director
Centro of Dane County

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan Corpus".

Juan Corpus
President & CEO
Wisconsin Latino Chamber of Commerce

From: [Wyolanda Singleton](#)
To: [Grady, Cindy](#)
Subject: FW: Statement
Date: Thursday, October 9, 2025 12:20:09 PM

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

Hi Cindy,
Here is the statement for the meeting tonight.
Sent from Erin Lewerenz.

Thanks, Wyolanda

From: Erin Lewerenz <lewerenzel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 5:03 PM
To: Wyolanda Singleton <wyolandas@projecthomewi.org>
Subject: Statement

Hi Wyolanda, below is my statement for tomorrow night. Im sad I can't attend to make it myself. Hopefully it's good enough.

Thank you,
Erin Lewerenz

Hello. I am unable to be with you all tonight, but I wanted to send in a statement. Project Home is a vital resource in Dane County.

As a first time home buyer, there were many projects I had to accomplish over the last few years that were unplanned for that timeline. After two winters dealing with single pane windows, I needed to make an upgrade to preserve the integrity and comfort of my home. I wasn't sure how I was going to afford new windows for a 100 year old house that has almost 30 windows between my first and second floors. I found Project Home after doing some research on possible grants. After a couple conversations with Wyolanda, I knew I had found a partner in this project. They helped me work through the necessary steps to obtain the funding. They worked with my vendor of choice on payments. They checked in with me after project completion. It was truly one of the best relationships I've had with a group and contractors in the 2 and a half years since I bought my house.

Without Project Home, I would be either severely in debt or freezing through many more winters paying extremely high energy bills to try to counteract the drafts. This program is vital to homeowners who are trying to figure out how to manage repairs to their properties in order to continue to take pride in our homes and communities. Please continue to fund this program.