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September 10, 2024

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

Dear Members of the Dane County CDBG Commission,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Latino Academy of Workforce Development (LAWD), I am writing to express our strong support for the preliminary funding recommendation of \$50,000 for the Dane County Workforce Academy through the CDBG Public Services program for 2025. This funding is crucial in advancing the mission of the Latino Academy, which is to empower individuals by providing accessible, affordable, and high-quality workforce training and educational opportunities.

The Latino Academy serves a vital role in supporting Dane County's underserved communities, particularly Latino and immigrant populations, by equipping individuals with the skills and training necessary for employment and economic independence. The proposed funding will help the Dane County Workforce Academy continue to offer critical programs in areas such as adult basic education, job readiness, and career pathway development, all of which directly contribute to strengthening our local workforce and supporting economic mobility.

In addition to serving as a bridge to employment, the funding will allow us to expand our outreach and tailor programming that responds to the unique needs of our community, ensuring participants have the tools and resources necessary to succeed. Through these programs, we can advance workforce equity, fostering a more inclusive and prosperous Dane County.

We are committed to ensuring that this funding is utilized effectively to further our mission and enhance the impact of the Workforce Academy. The board fully supports this funding request and believes it will play a pivotal role in helping us continue to transform lives through education and workforce development.

Thank you for considering this important investment in our community. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you and ensure the continued success of the Latino Academy of Workforce Development.

Sincerely,

Shiva Bidar-Sielaff  
Board Chair  
Latino Academy of Workforce Development



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210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Members of the Dane County CDBG Commission,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Latino Academy of Workforce Development (LAWD), I am writing to express our full support for the preliminary funding recommendation of \$130,000 for the Transportation Business Development Accelerator Program under the 2025 CDBG Public Services program. This funding is critical to advancing LAWD's mission to provide accessible and high-quality workforce development opportunities, with a focus on breaking down barriers to economic mobility for Latinx/e and immigrant communities in Dane County.

Transportation is a key factor in enabling individuals to access employment, training, and educational opportunities. This program will directly address transportation barriers that our community members face, supporting business development and entrepreneurial growth. By providing resources, training, and access to transportation-related business opportunities, we will empower participants to create sustainable careers in the transportation sector, enhancing economic independence and resilience.

This investment will allow LAWD to continue its work of equipping individuals with the skills and support needed to succeed, ensuring they can overcome transportation-related obstacles and fully participate in Dane County's workforce. Furthermore, this funding will help us foster a more inclusive local economy, aligning with our commitment to promoting equity and opportunity for all members of the community.

We are excited about the potential of this program to create lasting impact, and the Board of Directors strongly supports this funding request. We believe it will significantly enhance our ability to fulfill our mission and meet the needs of those we serve.

Thank you for considering this important funding opportunity for LAWD. We look forward to the chance to further partner with the Dane County CDBG Commission to continue creating pathways to success for our community.

Sincerely,

Shiva Bidar-Sielaff  
Board Chair  
Latino Academy of Workforce Development