

From: Christian Arana <carana@latinocf.org>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 7:22 PM
To: BOSComments
Subject: 7/28 Public Comment, Item #5 - Latino Community Foundation
Attachments: Letter to Fresno BOS - Latino Community Foundation .pdf

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July 27, 2020

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
2281 Tulare Street, Room 301
Fresno, CA 93721-2198

Chairman Buddy Mendes
Vice Chairman Steve Brandau
Supervisor Brian Pacheco
Supervisor Sal Quintero
Supervisor Nathan Magsig

Dear Fresno County Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Latino Community Foundation (LCF), I write to advocate for the health and safety of the Latino community in Fresno County during COVID-19. An overwhelming number of Latinos in the county are essential workers who are performing heroic services for the community and for the state writ large. But Latinos continue to remain exposed to COVID-19, and I implore you to be judicious in your response to this virus, especially as you decide how to allocate CARES Act resources.

As it stands, nearly half of the cases in the county are from the Latino community. This is a product of health disparities and crowded housing conditions that have contributed to the community's high case count. It also the product of the fact that many Latinos in Fresno work in industries that preclude them from working from home, especially farmworkers.

This past March, LCF created the Love Not Fear Fund to support grassroots Latino-led organizations serving Latino and immigrant communities across California. Many of the organizations we support are in Fresno County. Organizations like West Side Youth in Mendota are serving as a food pantry. Other organizations like Community Center for Arts and Technology are sewing masks for farmworkers who have been highly vulnerable to this virus.

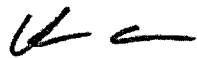
But we know philanthropic efforts are not enough to address the needs of Fresno's Latino community during this pandemic.

It is for that reason that I respectfully ask that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors to move quickly in providing greater relief for Latino families across the county. Several steps to ensure their safety must include on-site testing for farmworkers, multi-lingual COVID-19 education in partnership with Latino nonprofits, inspection of workplaces for health violations, and access to support services (food, housing, mental health) if a worker tests positive. **Your decisions in how you spend CARES Act funding is of utmost importance in**

tackling this virus head on and critical to bringing this crisis to a halt. We sincerely hope you will allocate these resources where they are needed the most: Within the Latino community.

LCF is the premier statewide foundation focused on unleashing the civic and economic power of Latinos in California. The foundation has the largest network of Latino philanthropists in the country and has invested \$10 million to build Latino civic and political power and leadership in the state.

Sincerely,



Christian Arana
Policy Director

Christian Arana (he/him/his), Policy Director

Latino Community Foundation | carana@latinocf.org

235 Montgomery St., Ste. 1160, San Francisco, CA 94104 | T: 415-236-5145

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