

CASA Latina

Q & A on the Capital Campaign

What is CASA Latina?

CASA Latina is a non-profit organization founded in 1994 to serve the needs of the Latino immigrant community in King County. The mission of CASA Latina is to empower Latino immigrants by providing educational and economic opportunities.

How does CASA Latina achieve its mission?

CASA Latina has a number of core programs that serve Latino immigrants including:

- A Day Workers Center where immigrant workers are connected with employers seeking a range of skills.
- ESL classes and workshops on job safety, worker rights, and consumer education.
- A Women's Leadership Program that provides Latina immigrant women with skills and a support network so that they can become full participants in the community and in their children's schools.
- A Wage Claim Program staffed by volunteer lawyers to assist workers in recovering pay for completed work from unscrupulous employers.

What has CASA Latina accomplished?

Since its founding, CASA Latina has dispatched thousands of temporary jobs, as well as connected hundreds of workers with permanent employment. In 2007 alone:

- 18 immigrant women became more active in their children's schools and in civic organizations and a new Women's Leadership program was established in Burien.
- 136 immigrants were placed in permanent work.
- 9,711 temporary jobs were dispatched with an average wage of \$13.11 per hour.
- 55 adults learned enough English to markedly improve their ability to communicate with employers, teachers and neighbors.
- More than \$30,000 was recovered for workers who were not paid by their employers.

Governmental agencies, other non-profits, and neighborhood associations look to CASA Latina as an experienced and effective provider of programs that increase public safety, promote economic development, and support access to education.

What is the purpose of the capital campaign?

In March of 2007 Casa Latina purchased a building at 17th Avenue S. and S. Jackson Street in Seattle's Central District. The capital campaign will raise \$4 million for a two-phase project that will provide a consolidated site for programs and operations. The campaign will enable CASA Latina to build organizational capacity and stability, increase awareness of programs and services, and provide more effective program delivery to constituents.

How much has been raised to date?

As of January 1, 2008 just over \$2 million has been raised for the campaign. Funding from the State, County and City total \$1.5M, Foundation funding totals \$450K including a major grant of \$400K from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and individuals have committed over \$100K.

What is the timeline for the capital campaign?

Phase I of construction to renovate an existing building on the site is scheduled to begin in Spring 2008 allowing CASA Latina's administrative offices to move to the new site in Fall 2008. Phase II construction of a new facility that will house all operations will begin in late 2008. The campaign is scheduled to conclude in late 2009.

How will contributions to the capital campaign be managed?

All donations will be deposited in a restricted account at Plaza Bank. Impact Capital, which provided an initial loan of \$1 million for purchase of the property, will have general oversight of the funds along with CASA Latina senior administration. Only capital campaign budgeted expenses will be funded from the contributions account.