



Latino Community Development Agency, Inc.

420 SW 10th Street / Oklahoma City, OK 73109

405-236-0701 / www.lcdaok.org

**For Oklahoma's Kids.
For Oklahoma's Families.
For Oklahoma's Future.**



What We Do

2021 Spring Newsletter

LCDA is a nonprofit 501(c)3 social services organization that was founded in 1991 in Oklahoma City by a cross-section of community and business leaders for the purpose of addressing the unique needs of Latino immigrants from other countries and Spanish-speaking persons who were relocating to Oklahoma from other states and represented the fastest growing population sector in the region and state.

What differentiates Latinos from other ethnic groups is that their social services need to be delivered in Spanish and by trained professionals who are sensitive to their culture.



**Raúl Font, EdD
President & CEO**

Thirty years later, Latinos continue to represent the fastest growing population sector in the state, LCDA's important mission of working to improve the quality of life in the Latino

community through education, leadership, services and advocacy is still vitally important and puts words into actions by delivering an array of more than two dozen proven social services programs to members of the community who are most in need. Each LCDA program addresses specific community needs that range from pediatric medicine to child abuse prevention and from senior citizen nutrition to college scholarships. LCDA program areas include: Health, Prevention, Treatment, Riverside, Children's Clinic and Tony Reyes Bilingual Child Development Center.

"LCDA fills a huge void in our community," states Dr. Raul Font, LCDA president. "We meet Latino families' many needs so they can thrive, and this has a very positive economic impact on the entire region, as Latinos fill from 20% to 50% of the skilled specialty sector jobs and vitally important trades in metro Oklahoma City, not to mention the roles Latinos fill in education, healthcare, government and business professions."

Providing Emergency Relief to the Latino Community During COVID-19

A large percentage of the families LCDA serves work in restaurants, hotels, retail, manufacturing, oil and gas and construction, some of the hardest hit sectors of the economy during the pandemic, which began in March 2020. Because many of them live from paycheck to paycheck, they were particularly hard hit by COVID-19; they lost their ability to earn income, with some even losing access to health insurance (if they had it to begin with). Not being able to pay their bills or even purchase essential items like food, medicine and gasoline was immensely stressful to Latino families throughout the area.

Spurred on by generous cash donations offered to LCDA by Latino business and civic leaders and others in the community, helped the organization mount an emergency relief effort that awarded needy families with cash for rent, utilities, food and medications. To date, the agency has awarded \$250,000 to families, which impacted the lives of 834 individuals.

Armed with new knowledge about the need for emergency relief within the Latino community, LCDA is in the process of instituting a permanent program to provide members of the Latino community who experience catastrophic losses with short-term financial support and access to in-kind items like non-perishable foods. Charitable donations to support this program are encouraged.

To donate, please contact Mario Medrano at m.medrano@latinoagencyokc.org or by phone at 405-236-0701, or go to www.lcdaok.org and click on the donate button.

Community Impact: Annual Client Service Statistics

The different programs and number of individuals utilizing them during the last fiscal year illustrate the impact LCDA has on the lives of Latinos in central Oklahoma.

The number of unduplicated individuals served total 31,531.

The number of repeat clients accessing LCDA programs more than once total 41,994.

Health Program – 5,774

Prevention Program – 1,372

Treatment Program – 3,556

Children's Clinic – 2,493

Riverside Community Center Programs – 18,250

Tony Reyes Bilingual Child Development Center – 86

"The greatest impact was that now I can understand what happened to me, I have survived it, and I know where to find help." – Domestic Abuse Client

Program Expansion



MASS Architects, Inc

New Pediatric Clinic and Health & Wellness Building

Although COVID-19 paused LCDA's efforts to secure the necessary funding required to construct a new two-story 19,000 square-foot pediatric clinic and health education building, the fundraising committee responsible for obtaining donations will renew their efforts in mid-2021, according to Richard Lane, board chairman. Lane states: "Our focus since early 2020 has been on providing staff and clients with ongoing and safe access to our essential services, but we sense there is light at the end of the tunnel, so we will move forward on expanding children's access to healthcare by renewing efforts to raise the \$5.5 million necessary to make the building a reality."

The current clinic, which is leased to and operated by OU Medicine, was founded in 1997 and is the only full-service bilingual medical provider of its kind in the region. The clinic current serves an estimated 10,000 children annually. Currently located on the first floor of the Pat Fennell Riverside Community Center (built in 1909), the planned clinic will be built on open land next door. The new clinic will increase the number of

pediatric patients served from 1 to 3 percent annually, and fiber optic wiring for facilitating efficient medical communications between the clinic and OU Medical Center; fifteen modern patient exam rooms; and health and wellness classrooms for family health education purposes, including a teaching kitchen.

In Oklahoma County, there are more than 133,000 Latinos, 17% of the entire population, which includes 25,000 families - 17,000 children under age five, (12.6%), and more than 38,000 youth, ages 6 to 17 (28.73%).

New classrooms and a healthy cooking teaching kitchen will greatly expand health education program opportunities for adults in the Spanish-speaking community, leading to better health outcomes for them and their children. The project includes an expanded clinic waiting room, 15 patient exam rooms, several meeting/classroom spaces that will accommodate groups from 10 to 50 participants, and administrative offices.

Tony Reyes Bilingual Child Development Center

Another major campus improvement is an upgrade to the Tony Reyes Bilingual Child Development Program at Riverside's outdoor playground area. The current playground will be transformed to a NatureExplore® Certified Outdoor Classroom. The new 5,000 square foot Nature Explore® Certified Outdoor Classroom is designed to facilitate better social and physical development, improve fitness, motor skills and well-being, support creativity an imaginative plan, inspire confidence and reduce violence, reduces stress and most of all create a sense of empathy of nature.

The Tony Reyes Bilingual Child Development Center is an accredited award-winning, nationally-accredited program operated by LCDA at two sites in Oklahoma City. The program serves children age 0 to 4. Founded in 1997, the centers provide Early Head Start services for up to 45 children, zero to three years of age, and early care and education services to children up to age four.

"Because the Center is a child development program rather than a daycare, it views learning as something that is constantly and continuously happening, views children as smart and capable, and the teachers consciously create a safe space for the kids to learn and thrive."

Sandra Puebla,
Tony Reyes Bilingual Child
Development Center parent



The centers are accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC supports the use of relevant, well-designed research to develop and evaluate early childhood services, and to better understand young children's development and learning. The program is also certified at the highest rating, 3 Stars, through Oklahoma's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). QRIS is a method to assess, improve, and communicate the positive practices in early care and education settings. The criteria used in QRIS have been developed from research and what is universally considered to be quality care. This program is also a Certified Health Early Childhood Program. There is extensive longitudinal and "gold standard" (random assignment) research and other studies that provide a massive body of evidence in the effectiveness of Early Head Start programming in improving the lives of children and families.



lower park

THE CITY OF OKLAHOMA CITY, MAPS PROJECT OFFICE



HargreavesJones

Welcome, Scissortail Park!

New 30-Acre Lower Park Intersects with LCDA

LCDA's Riverside neighborhood, just south of downtown Oklahoma City, is experiencing an exciting period of transformation. It's because the Lower Park section of the 30-acre Scissortail Park is under development just across the street from LCDA's headquarters, at 420 SW 10th Street, one block east of S. Walker Ave.

The Lower Park, which is accessible to the Upper Park via Skydance bridge, is scheduled to open in 2022.

The Lower Park will feature nature trails, exercise stations, art, play areas and numerous sports venues, including a soccer field and sports pavilion directly across the street from LCDA.

"The Lower Park's proximity to LCDA will increase our visibility in the community, and provide our staff with wonderful ways to keep healthy and active," states Dr. Raul Font, LCDA's president. "The park's time line coincides with our plans to make some significant campus improvements that include additional parking, fencing, signage and landscaping."





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