

Staff Comments: The Latino Chamber will partner with WWBIC and Madison College to assist with training programs. They will collaborate with Centro Hispano, GMCC, and the Minority Business Resource Center to help with getting the word out about the businesses and the services they offer.

13. To what extent does the applicant propose services that are accessible and appropriate to the needs of low income individuals, culturally diverse populations and/or populations with specific language barriers and/or physical or mental disabilities?

Staff Comments: With the move to Centro Hispano the Latino Chamber will have greater visibility to their target population. Because there are various dialects of Spanish the Latino Chamber will use different volunteers to address any language barriers with classes or translation issues.

14. To what extent does the proposal meet the technical and regulatory requirements and unit cost limits as applicable? To what extent is there clear and precise proposal information to determine eligibility?

Staff Comments: Objective E outcome is "Business Development and Job Creation." The proposal is not clear on the job creation component.

15. To what extent is the site identified for the proposed project appropriate in terms of minimizing negative environmental issues, relocation and neighborhood or public concerns?

Staff Comments: The site is a very good one for what they intend to accomplish.

16. Other comments:

Questions:

1. The CDBG Commission awarded funding to the Latino Chamber of Commerce for 2007-2008 with the understanding that these funds would be seed funds and the organization would become self-sustaining as a membership organization. A decrease in funding was provided in 2009-2010 with the understanding that at the end of this 2-year contract the Latino Chamber would be self-sustaining through support of their membership. Do you feel that this has been a realistic goal for you to attain?
2. What are membership dues and how many paid members do you currently have?
3. You stated that businesses you assisted created over 22 jobs. What do you feel was your exact role in this?

17. Staff Recommendation

Not recommended for consideration

Recommend for consideration

Recommend with Qualifications

Suggested Qualifications:

1. Because job creation is a requirement the agency will have to provide CDD with specific jobs created goals in order to be funded.
2. Business mentoring should be a major component to the business assistance provided.
3. Partnering with other organizations to help with business assistance such as, Madison College, Madison Development Corporation, Urban League and WWBIC will be required.