



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

NC CONGRESS OF  
LATINO ORGANIZATIONS

[WWW.NCLATINOCONGRESS.COM](http://WWW.NCLATINOCONGRESS.COM)

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# Our mission



**NC CONGRESS  
OF LATINO  
ORGANIZATIONS**



The NC Congress of Latino Organizations (aka The Latino Congress) is a statewide, membership led organization that builds power among Latino institutions and their leaders to advance social, racial and economic justice. The Latino Congress works for for the public good by coalescing training, and organizing Latinos across religious, racial, nationality, class, county and neighborhood lines.

Our membership consists of more than seventy congregations, community associations, unions and nonprofits in North Carolina representing more than 100,000 individuals.



# Durham



Iglesia Episcopal El Buen Pastor • Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel • Iglesia Católica de la Inmaculada Concepción • Iglesia Nehemias Espiritu de Vida • Workers United

# Forsyth

Iglesia Metodista Unida Comunidad de Gracia • Creando Familias Felices • Iglesia Presbiteriana El Buen Pastor • Iglesia Metodista Unida Nueva Esperanza • Open Arms • Quail Ridge Parque de Trailas • Iglesia Sin Fronteras • Venezolanos en el Triad • Vecinos de Yarbrough Avenue Apartments • North Forsyth Parque de Trailas • Trinity Presbyterian Church • Estamos Unidos Ministerio Moravo • Iglesia El Elohe • Iglesia Nuevo Renacer • Parkway United Church of Christ

# Mecklenburg

Hickory Grove Baptist Church • Iglesia Arder Gate • Throne of Grace • Latin Way • Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe • Iglesia St. Andrew Methodist Church • Iglesia Central Methodist Church • UNISAL • St. John Neumann Catholic Church

## CHAPTERS

# Orange

Olin T. Binkley Baptist Church • Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church • Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP • Church of the Holy Family • Chapel Hill Friends • Church of Reconciliation • El Centro Hispano • Episcopal Church of the Advocate • Habitat for Humanity of Orange County • Hillsborough Presbyterian Church • Inter-Faith Council for Social Services • Kehillah Synagogue • Lattisville Grove Missionary Baptist Church • Newman Catholic Community at UNC-Chapel Hill • Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church • St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church • St. Matthew's Episcopal Church • St. Thomas More Catholic Church • United Church of Chapel Hill • Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Hillsborough

# Wake

St. Paul's Episcopal Church • Church of the Good Shepherd • United Church of Christ • Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church • Las Americas - Neighborhood Association • Dorcas Ministries - Non profit



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# **Real Change Accomplished**

**The NC Congress of Latino Organizations began a new statewide organizing cycle by engaging more than 1,500 people in listening sessions (small group meetings) in nine counties: [Durham, Wake, Orange, Forsyth, Mecklenburg, Duplin, Lenoir, Sampson, Johnston]. Decent housing, access to primary healthcare, education, community safety, and immigration emerged as top priorities for organizing efforts. NCCLO works together with its affiliate partner NC Latino Power to further non-partisan goals.**

# STATEWIDE LEVEL

The NC Congress of Latino Organizations implemented statewide actions to address problems identified during the listening sessions. All those actions were preceded by planning gatherings and training for leaders from different parts of the state, and were sponsored by faith leaders from diverse denominations.

After touring a mobile home park in Orange County with leaders of the Latino Congress, Congressman David Price co-introduced a Bill of Rights to protect residents of manufactured homes from abuses. Congressman Price kept his promises made to the Latino Congress and its sister networks to include \$1.2 billion to be used for mobile home parks & colonias in the infrastructure bill recently signed into law by President Joe Biden. The Congressman also kept his promise to our Triangle affiliates to fight for and include \$65 billion for public housing in the final bill.



**\$65B**

PUBLIC HOUSING

**\$1.2B**

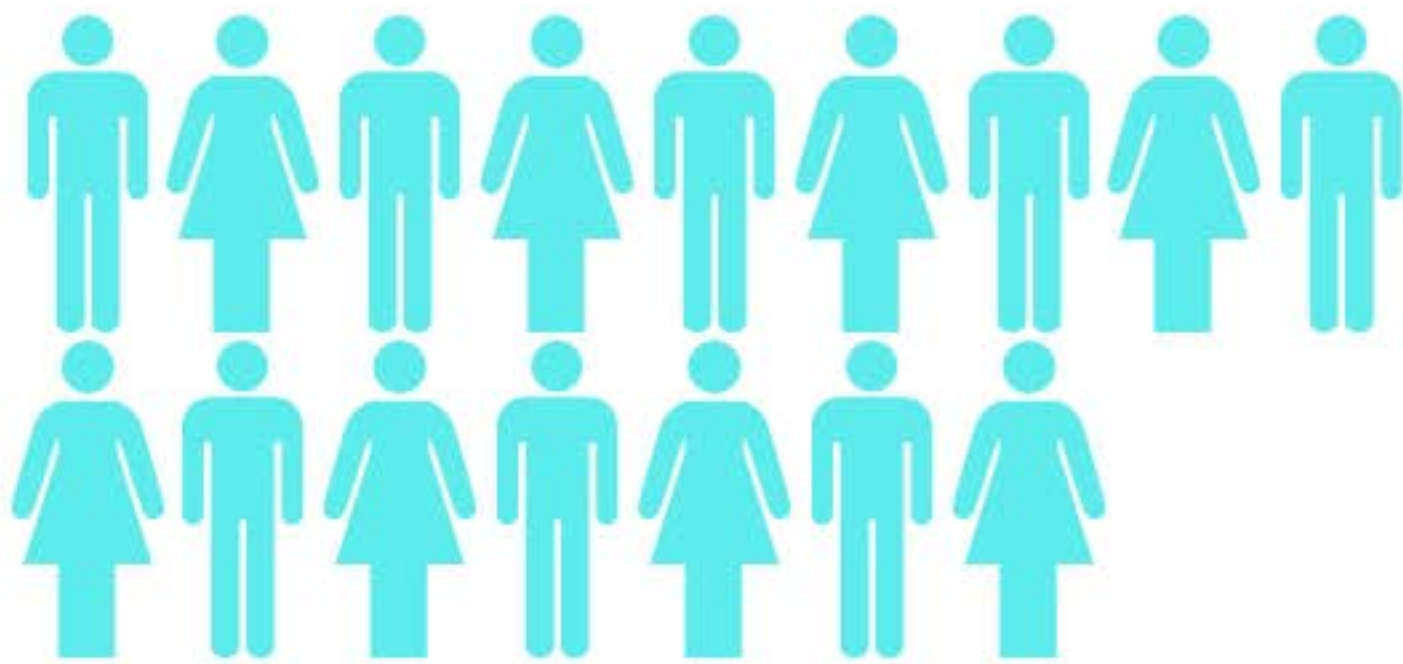
MOBILE HOMES PARKS AND COLONIAS



**958+**

Latino immigrants and allies met with Governor Roy Cooper and Attorney General Roy Cooper in an accountability meeting where the Governor reported on the progress made on his promise to protect immigrants in North Carolina's frontline industries from COVID-19 infection. The Attorney General provided a report on the legal actions against the Trump administration which kept the federal DACA program alive for close to 700,000 Latino immigrants in the U.S. Additionally, the Attorney General agreed to represent 300 low-income families at a mobile home park in Cary in their fight to regain their property titles.





**70K+**

Attempts to contact eligible Latino voters to encourage them to vote on local elections in 51 municipalities in North Carolina.



**ELECTIONS WORK**



# COVID-19 RESPONSE

**40K** unvaccinated Latinos were contacted in their own language by phone with educational information about the pandemic and the multiple vaccine options offered by health authorities.

Our leaders collaborated with six bishops and religious leaders from diverse faith traditions to prepare bilingual video messages to encourage Latinos to get vaccinated and reject disinformation. We shared these important messages through social media and participant institutions reaching hundreds of people. Many of our churches have directly sponsored vaccination drives.

At the Latino Congress's request, Governor Roy Cooper facilitated the following changes as a way to further protect essential workers from the impact of COVID-19:

## The NC Attorney General

- Issued an opinion letter clarifying farmworkers' tenants' rights as individuals that can be visited by anyone at any time, including by those that are providing preventive health information or arranging COVID-19 testing and/or treatment.

## The NCDHHS

- Started reporting COVID-19 cases by occupation including agricultural and meat-packing industries, a change that helped identify inequities and trends.
- Initiated proactive education, testing, and treatment of Latino essential workers in 11 counties with the highest levels of infections, as a way to increase testing and treatment.
- Created a Support Services Program Fund to aid farm workers impacted by the pandemic with income replacement as well as other needs.





**425+**  NC CONGRESS OF LATINO ORGANIZATIONS

leaders from the Latino Congress participated in listening sessions and leadership development training to identify and vote on the top problems to address in Durham. Education, housing and public safety issues were the priorities chosen by the community.

## DURHAM COUNTY



**400+** 

Latino leaders met with Durham City Council and Mayoral candidates in a public assembly where Latino leaders proposed solutions on public safety and housing issues. Latino leaders won commitment from the entire newly elected City Council to hire additional police officers and increase their bonuses for those with bilingual skills. Council members also promised to collaborate with the Durham District Attorney to create a Community Life Court to address housing code and other non-criminal violations. The new Court is likely to be a mechanism to keep landlords accountable for repair needs identified during housing code inspections.

**10+** Latino families in Durham convinced officials from Neighborhood Improvement Services to inspect and require repairs in their apartments, which had damage dating to the early 2000s. This victory has inspired other Latino neighborhoods living with housing code violations to organize to protect their rights.





**1000+**

Latinos [in high risk occupations and essential workers] received support to secure appointments and were connected to resources through COVID-19 vaccination drives.

**400+** Latino leaders participated in listening sessions on access to health care. These conversations led to initial negotiations with Novant Health to collaborate on establishing a primary care health clinic in the Old Town neighborhood, where Latino families lack access to affordable, linguistically appropriate medical attention. Institutional leaders organized their members to outline their specific health care needs, then presented the results to a team of Novant Health Market Leaders and Community Engagement staff.



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## **FORSYTH COUNTY**



**80+** Latino families living in unsafe apartments organized and won commitments from the Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines and Community Development Department Director Marla Newman to coordinate a plan to prevent flooding that affects 60+ families and address other serious code violations in 20 apartments. Prior to this, residents also worked with CityLink to ensure that staff could respond to complaints in Spanish. Flood mitigation and repair work are still underway.  
**\*Continued on next page.**

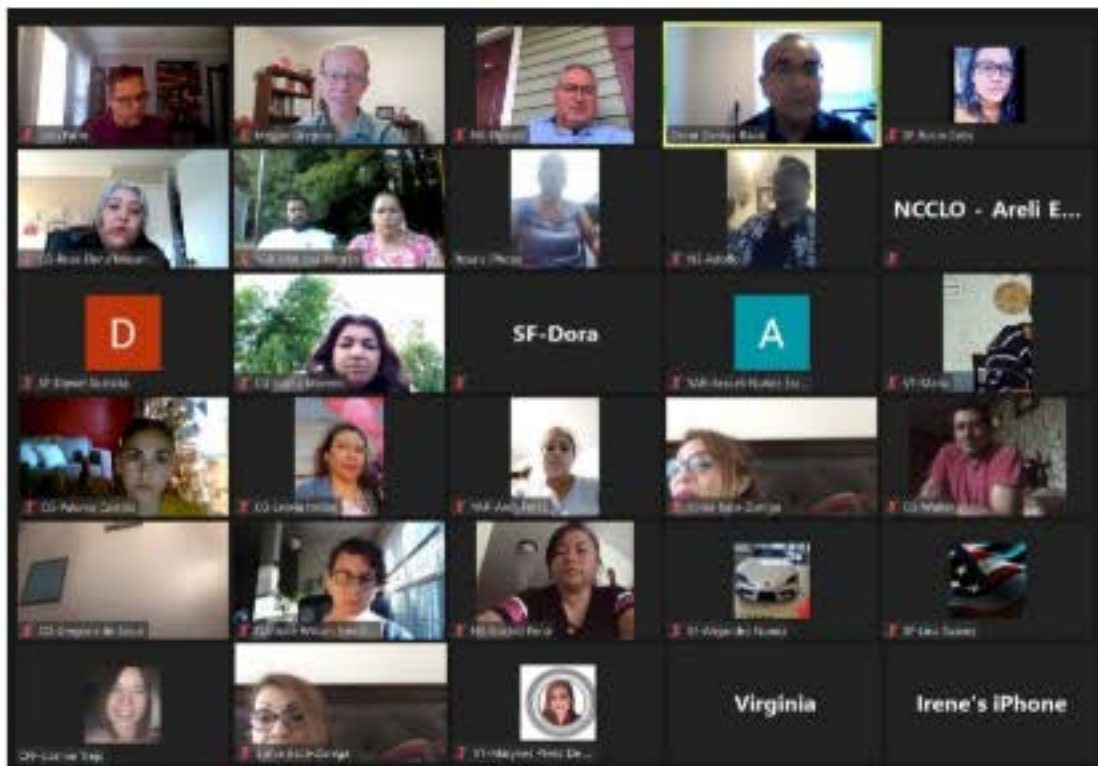
The residents of Yarbrough Ave and NCCLC are pleased to share the following commitments from Mayor Allen Joines:

- Contact Stormwater Management and coordinate a plan to prevent flooding.
- Reopen cases where investigations failed to mention problems listed by residents in their original complaints, to ensure they are corrected.
- Receive and address new complaints in cases where repairs were done poorly.



**30+** diverse leaders (African American, Latino/a, White, and Asian) have committed to engage their institutions in a multi-racial power organization through a county-wide organizing effort sponsored by the local Latino Congress chapter. Latino leaders envision working side by side with neighbors of all races to address systemic inequities and create a healthier, more just Forsyth County.

# FORSYTH COUNTY



**75** members from 17 institutions participated in information sessions on broad-based organizing and began forming core teams to connect their institutions to the larger collective. We will hold a second round of information sessions in 2022.

**30+** institutions have initiated conversations about making initial financial investments toward a contract with Metro IAF for a deep organizing drive.





**\$100K**

in rental assistance funds accessed and distributed by Latino pastors to immigrant families impacted by COVID-19.

**70+**

community leaders attended leadership training in order to build strong leadership in the Mecklenburg Chapter.

**580+** leaders participated in listening sessions and voted to address health and housing issues in 2022.

## MECKLENBURG COUNTY

- The Superintendent of Public Schools met with 6 of our leaders to address concerns about the public education budget.
- 4 new institutions joined the Latino organizing chapter in Mecklenburg, for a total of 9 participant institutions.



**NC CONGRESS OF LATINO ORGANIZATIONS**

**40+**

Latino leaders attended a celebration and learned about strengthening our power in the community.





# ORANGE COUNTY



## \$80K

in health and safety repairs won by neighborhood leaders from 105+ families in two mobile home parks through negotiating with park owners. Repairs include: fixing failing septic systems, road repairs, removal of deadly trees endangering residents' homes, and repairing malfunctioning well systems.

## 60+

families living in a mobile home park in Orange County negotiated the removal of extremely dangerous trees, inspection and repairs for failing septic systems, and the right to sell their own trailers after 30+ families hosted a press conference and a public tour of the parking lot with Congressman David Price. The residents won commitments from the County Health Department and Congressman David Price to put pressure on the park owners to fix those unsafe, unhealthy, and inequitable conditions.



**45+** families living in mobile homes in Chatham County won follow-up commitments from owners to continue removing dangerous trees, to fix septic tanks, and to fund speed limit signs and materials for a school bus stop shelter. The families won the victories after organizing two negotiations with company executives and 20+ residents.



## ORANGE COUNTY



**20** leaders formed a multiracial research team to create a power analysis of the county mental health system after 90+ Latino leaders identified the urgent problem of the lack of mental health services for Spanish-speaking and/or uninsured people during listening sessions.





47 families living in a mobile home park demanded and won \$382,235 so that the families could relocate their trailers after they were displaced when the park owner closed the park and applied for a rezoning. The families won the financial support after negotiating with the developer, Wake Forest Town Council and individual donors.

**\$382,235.00**

# WAKE COUNTY



**\$500K**

of value in property titles was secured by families living at the Mobile Estates Home Park in Cary. Families at this mobile home park have been abused by a slum landlord and have overpaid their trailers without access to titles for many years.



