



Hispanic Committee of Virginia Comité Hispano de Virginia



The Hispanic Committee of Virginia (HCV) is a private, nonpartisan, tax-exempt nonprofit organization established in 1967 to enable Hispanic immigrants in Northern Virginia **to more fully participate in, and thereby, contribute to American society.** HCV has chosen to work towards its mission of alleviating poverty, furthering economic self-sufficiency, and promoting civic participation among Hispanic Americans by providing a wide range of program services and benefits, including:

- **Information and referral**, call-ins/walk-ins;
- **Social services case management**, immediate, basic and emergency assistance;
- **Immigration and legal services**, consultation and application assistance;
- **Home-buying/homeownership**, pre-/post-purchase counseling and financial and consumer education;
- **Micro-enterprise development**, one-on-one business counseling and in-depth coursework;
- **Workforce development**, job referrals and placement, and quarterly job fairs;
- **Adult education**, ESL/citizenship classes (evenings/weekends) and computer and legal literacy; and
- **Youth education**, after-school tutoring/mentoring and summer camp.

HCV is the oldest and largest Hispanic nonprofit organization in Northern Virginia. **Last year, HCV provided over 100,000 services benefiting over 20,000 individuals.** It is well positioned to serve the Latino community for the following reasons:

- **Fully bilingual and bicultural staff**, the large majority of whom immigrated from Latin America, and know how to serve immigrant Latino families who are linguistically and culturally isolated.
- **Client-focused organization that delivers integrated, comprehensive and individualized case management services** to clients. Clients are not expected to “fit” programs.
- **Extensive one-on-one support through the entire home-buying process (by government-certified housing counselors)**, vital for those families that have no experience with American financial institutions.
- **Customized small business start-up counseling and technical assistance**, including in-depth business concept/plan development coursework provided in Spanish by staff with MBAs.
- **A completely developed network of loan, real estate and closing agents, lawyers, and accountants** enabling HCV clients to obtain quality, low cost, and trustworthy services.
- **Accommodates its service delivery to the schedule of working Hispanic/Latino individuals and families** with hours of operation from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, including evening and weekend classes.
- **Employs a variety of grassroots community outreach strategies through a trained network of Spanish-speaking Hispanic (and non-Hispanic) volunteers**, including community forums, door knocking, “flyering”, tabling, education campaigns, community events, etc. (Its ESL and civics education teachers and volunteers are certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia.)
- **Quarterly job fairs comprised of about 300 prospective employees and 50 employers ranging from Fortune 500 companies** to the nation’s fastest growing local businesses; qualified candidates are recruited, screened and hired.

HCV has 25 full-time staff and 100 volunteers, and its current operating budget is \$1.6 million. Its Board of Directors meets monthly. HCV’s Executive Director, Ms. Norma Lopez, has more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit management and organizational development, and has a philosophy degree from Yale University. HCV has offices in Alexandria, Arlington, Falls Church and Leesburg, Virginia.