



The Center for People of All Races

A voice and a hub for the Latino community
as we advocate on behalf of our people
and work to achieve social justice.

August 26, 2009

Programs & Services

Annually, El Centro de la Raza serves 25,497 individuals and 12,282 families through the following programs and services:

Luis Alfonso Velásquez Flores
After School Program
Basic Healthcare Enrollment
Café con El Centro
College Readiness
Crisis Advocacy
ESL/Citizenship Classes
Financial Literacy
Food Bank
Homeless Assistance Program
Homeownership Program
Hope for Youth Poetry & Civil Rights History Classes
Individual Savings Plan
Infant Mortality Prevention
Employment & Life Skills Training
José Martí Child Development Center
Parent Involvement & Education
Latino Hot Meal Program
Youth Violence Prevention
Teen Pregnancy Program
Senior Nutrition & Wellness
Senior Home Delivered Meals
Legal Clinic Site
Tax Preparation Site
Local, State, National & International Coalition Building
Immigrant/Human/Civil Rights
Social Justice Advocacy
Cultural/Political/Social Events
Community Service Site
Service Learning Site
Community Meeting Space

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Mercer Corridor Project TIGER grant application

Estimado Secretary LaHood:

El Centro de la Raza is urging you to **fund both the Mercer Corridor Project TIGER grant application**. We are in full support of the City of Seattle's application for this urgently needed project.

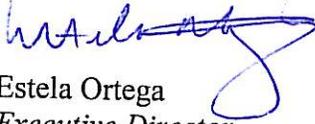
During the campaign, President Obama promised to "invest \$1 billion over five years in transitional jobs and career pathways programs that implement proven methods of helping low-income Americans succeed in the workforce. This investment will be coupled with other measures to encourage the private sector and state and local governments to increase their support of these effective employment programs." In addition the livability and safety of the Mercer Corridor will greatly improve with the implementation of this project.

El Centro de la Raza serves the greater Latino community throughout the State of Washington and the people we support are experiencing major hardships during these very difficult economic times. Federal stimulus dollars for the Mercer Corridor Project will provide hundreds local construction jobs, job training and job apprenticeship opportunities for those we represent and others.

El Centro de la Raza, with its 24 successful educational and human service programs, its well-utilized community center, and its well-documented 36 year history as a passionate and effective advocate for the rights and opportunities of vulnerable and marginalized people, is viewed by many as the hub of Seattle's Latino community. El Centro de la Raza provides a wide array of comprehensive advocacy and human service programs, with many of our programs benefiting low-income children and their families.

We urge you to fund the Mercer Corridor Project Tiger grant application. Thank you for your consideration.

Respetuosamente,



Estela Ortega
Executive Director

cc: Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell, Representative Jim McDermott,
Governor Christine Gregoire, Mayor Greg Nickels, Council President Richard Conlin