

## **AID PUSH BY THREE IN COUNCIL Want help for immigrants**

Daily News (New York)

March 22, 2005 Tuesday, SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2005 Daily News, L.P.



**Section:** SUBURBAN; Pg. 3

**Length:** 444 words

**Byline:** BY DONALD BERTRAND DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

### **Body**

---

THREE QUEENS City Councilmen used the Jamaica storefront quarters of an immigrant services organization yesterday to call on the Council to support increased funding to help newcomers.

During last year's budget negotiations, the Council was able to secure \$2.8 million in funding for groups such as the nonprofit Centro Hispano Cuzcatlán at 148-13 Hillside Ave., said Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans), who heads the Council's Queens delegation.

Centro Hispano Cuzcatlán - "Cuzcatlán" is a Salvadoran word meaning "land of lakes and volcanoes" - is a nonprofit community organization that educates and assists recent immigrants across the city to resolve legal problems and other issues.

"We are all one city, and by helping every ethnic group, we are ensuring the future viability of our city," Comrie said.

At a conference at Centro Hispano, Comrie and his colleagues John Liu (D-Flushing) and James Gennaro (D-Fresh Meadows) said the mayor's current preliminary budget has no money allocated for immigrant community groups.

They want to see the funding increased from the \$2.8 million allocated last year to \$10 million.

"In a budget of over \$48 billion, dedicating \$10 million to services that directly benefit more than a third of the city's population should be mandatory," Gennaro said.

"English classes, labor rights workshops and civic classes are services that strengthen New Yorkers' ability to succeed today and will ensure New York City's economic viability tomorrow," he said.

"If we tried to provide the same amount of services through city government . . . it would cost many, many times over what can be done with these community-based organizations," said Liu.

"Organizations such as this one are all throughout the city and they operate on a shoestring budget. They squeeze so much output out of so few resources. They are a terrific investment," said the Flushing councilman.

According to Eduardo Barahona, the treasurer and program coordinator at Centro Hispano, last year the group had a budget of \$150,000.

"To do all that we want to do, we need more," said Barahona.

## AID PUSH BY THREE IN COUNCIL Want help for immigrants

Centro Hispano, he said, would also like to get more space to hold meetings and classes and provide counseling and advocacy services for immigrants.

The City Planning Department released a report earlier this year that counted the city's immigrant population at 2.9 million in 2000 and estimated that in the last five years that number has risen to a record-high 3.2 million.

Queens, the home to almost 36% of the city's immigrants, has the highest immigrant population of any borough.

During the 1990s alone, Queens saw its immigrant population double in size.

[dbertrand@nydailynews.com](mailto:dbertrand@nydailynews.com)

## Graphic

---

ANTHONY DELMUNDO Eduardo Barahona of Centro Hispano Cuzcatlán said group needs more funding.

## Classification

---

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** CITY GOVERNMENT (90%); CIVIC & SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS (90%); NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (90%); CITIES (89%); TALKS & MEETINGS (78%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (78%); REGIONAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (78%); MAYORS (78%); POPULATION SIZE (78%); COMMUNITY ACTIVISM (75%); CITY LIFE (73%); ETHNIC GROUPS (73%); POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS (70%); DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS (69%)

**Industry:** BUDGETS (90%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (78%); BUDGET PROPOSALS (72%)

**Geographic:** NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); NEW YORK, USA (90%)

**Load-Date:** March 22, 2005