



1766 West 46th Avenue, Unit #11489
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www.latinasfirst.org

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April 4, 2023

Dear Denver Mayor's Office and City Council Members:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for changes to the Prosperity Denver Fund ordinance. Latinas First Foundation receives reimbursement from Prosperity Denver Fund for scholarships and support services.

Established in 2011, the Latinas First Foundation provides a critical network and support for Latinas to reach their highest potential. We provide scholarships, mentorship, and networking opportunities for college women, and honor Latina Trailblazers and Unsung Heroines. Latinas First is focused on the cultural and historical contributions of Colorado Latinas, and we strive to herald a new generation of professional Latinas who will contribute to our communities.

We support talented Latina college-bound or currently enrolled college students with ties to Colorado. Our scholars are leaders inside and outside of the classroom. Awards are generally \$2500 one-year awards; however, our Board recognizes the importance of serving students through college graduation and is beginning to make a limited number of multi-year awards. Our first four-year scholarship recipient is a student at CSU-Pueblo and is a Denver resident student. In Fall of 2022, we awarded more than \$155,000 to 50 scholars. Since 2011, 189 scholarships have been awarded totalling almost \$600,000. Of our current scholars, 11 are eligible for PDF reimbursement.

Girls Can Be What They Can See.



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The proposed ordinance changes to the Prosperity Denver Fund ordinance, specifically the residency requirement, would reduce the administrative burden of confirming Denver residency. Currently it is difficult to gather the necessary documentation to prove three years of Denver residency. By allowing supported organizations to depend on high school attendance at a DPS high school would allow for possibly more students eligible for PDF reimbursement. In addition, it would allow for a more streamlined process of attesting to residency.

In addition, the change to allow reimbursement of pre-collegiate services would allow Latinas First Foundation to create new programs that would focus on access to higher education for Denver Latinas and Latinas across the state. Latinas First Foundation is in alignment with Prosperity Denver Fund and other supported organizations in that we aim to increase the number of historically underserved students who access scholarships, complete a postsecondary degree and strengthen the local economy.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions or provide additional information.

Lauren Sisneros

Sincerely,

Lauren Sisneros

Executive Director

lauren@latinasfirst.org

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