



March 20, 2026

The Honorable Mayor Yopez
City of Lodi
221 W. Pine Street
Lodi, CA 95240

2912 Fernwood Dr
Lodi, CA 95242

Dear Mayor Yopez,

Bertha A Castro
President

Monica Valenzuela
Vice President

Janet Vargas
Secretary

Julie Jensen
Treasurer

Wende Berry

Bulmaro Maldonado

Samuel Mendoza

Alma Vicenty

Yina Yopez

Thank you for providing Unidos Progresando - Progressing Together the opportunity to apply for a grant from the Non-Profit City Council Fund. Our non-profit (EIN# 39-4086496) believes in **community building beyond the performative**. Working as volunteers, our members provided holiday meals to more than fifty underserved families, distributed warm coats to 43 fieldworkers, offers bi-weekly English as a Second Language (ESL) and Citizenship test preparation classes, and supplies a monthly food pantry for food-insecure Lodi residents. In addition, we refer clients to immigration assistance and expanded MediCal services.

We are currently seeking to expand and enhance our ESL and Citizenship classes. Any funds received will be used to extend classes, providing more Lodi residents with the necessary skills to **live productive, healthy lives, in safety**. We recognize that the ability to effectively communicate is a crucial step towards becoming a **fully contributing member of society**. Many of our students have been able to secure employment and housing with fluency learned in our classes. Several are actively preparing to take the citizenship test, and we've already celebrated successes. These two steps, fluency and attaining citizenship, have the **potential power to lift generations out of poverty**.

The demand for our **low barrier, free classes** is readily apparent. What started as one weekly class last year has since doubled. We would like to be able to provide our students with binders and basic supplies, items they cannot afford. As well, our classes would be greatly enhanced if we had a couple of laptop computers and a large screen on which to project lesson materials. All of these would greatly help us expand our classes and our reach. We could do so much more, and reach so many more, with your grant's financial support.

Sincerely,

Bertha Alicia Castro
Board President



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Lodi, CA 95242

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Itemized Project Budget

Unidos Progresando – Requested Funding: \$3,500.00

1. Technology: \$2,400 (3/4 laptop computers for student testing, training, and digital literacy and a large screen for projecting lessons)
2. Community Field Trip Fund: \$200 (Two walking field trips patronizing downtown business/practical English practice)
3. Student Resource Kits (50): \$300 (Heavy-duty binders, notebooks, totes, and writing tools for the entire year)
4. Security & Storage Cabinet: \$200 (Locking steel cabinet to protect laptops and confidential student records)
5. Classroom Instruction Tools: \$200 (Large mobile magnetic whiteboard)
6. Instructional Supplies: \$200 (Copy paper, printer ink, dry erase markers, etc.)

TOTAL REQUESTED: \$3,500

Note: Unidos Progresando is 100% volunteer-run. Every dollar requested goes directly toward student resources and community impact.



