



What is the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce?

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary 501 c (6) non-profit organization, which has been in existence since 1947. With Latinos in excess of 48 percent of the population in Merced County, it is obvious that the Hispanic Chamber has a strong influence in our area. Consequently, the Hispanic Chamber has far-reaching implications by having access to the buying power, labor market, and economic development of the Hispanic population in our County.

The Chamber's membership consists of Hispanic and non-Hispanic businesses and professional individuals who all share a mutual desire to ensure a healthy economic and socio-economic base to benefit Merced County and its communities.

What does the Hispanic Chamber do?

The mission of the Hispanic Chamber is to promote Hispanic and non-Hispanic businesses and professionals; encourage economic development (business and industrial/manufacturing investments); provide a forum in which business issues are advocated; to encourage, network and market our membership's products and services; and to create partnerships that will benefit and enhance the business climate and community throughout Merced County.

Additionally, the Hispanic Chamber supports a local education system that inspires the highest levels of student achievement and learning opportunities; and promotes a health care system that cares for the critical needs of our citizens.

How does the Hispanic Chamber work?

The Hispanic Chamber is governed by its Board of Directors, which determines the policies and programs of the Hispanic Chamber. The Board of Directors employs an Executive Director whose responsibility is to organize and execute the Chamber's programs and carry out its policies.

Who Finances the Hispanic Chamber?

The Hispanic Chamber obtains its finances from the dues collected from its membership. The Chamber is run like a business, incurring operational costs and expenses and works within the budget of its organization.

You and the Hispanic Chamber

Through your involvement with the Hispanic Chamber, every Chamber member contributes to an organizational effort that benefits the local business economy while promoting your business.

When should I join the Hispanic Chamber?

TODAY! The opportunities available to you as a Hispanic Chamber member are profitable and rewarding.



Why join the Hispanic Chamber

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce works to enhance its members' ability to conduct their business successfully by providing the following benefits:

- **Develop Business Connections:** The Hispanic Chamber can put you in touch with individuals and/or companies that could result in new clients and customers.
- **Provide Business Referrals:** The Hispanic Chamber receives numerous requests each year for recommendations on products or services to be purchased in the area. We refer our members to local residents, newcomers, visitors and requesting such products and services.
- **Membership Directory Listing:** Members will be included in the Hispanic Chamber's on-line directory website listing (www.mercedhcc.com). This provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to search for your specific products or services. If you have a website, the Hispanic Chamber can provide individuals with a direct link from your member listing back to your website.
- **Seminars and Workshops:** Through out the year the Hispanic Chamber presents information on seminars and workshops on issues relating to small business development, current and upcoming legislative issues affecting business and other related information at little or no cost.
- **Mixers and Ribbon Cuttings:** Our monthly mixers or ribbon cuttings are a great setting for providing business-to-business networking opportunities to establish new relationships and business contacts. Each month a member hosts an open house or ribbon cutting at their business location inviting attendees to a first-hand view of their products or services. If you host a mixer or ribbon cutting event, your name will be advertised on the home page of the Hispanic Chamber's website.
- **Technical Assistance and Business Counseling:** Technical assistance and business counseling are available to members by the Hispanic Chamber's staff and/or a network of organizations to assist in Small Business Loan packaging and writing a Business Plan.
- **Committee Meetings:** Members may participate in activities and/or special events through various committees offered by the Hispanic Chamber. These committees offer the opportunities to join professional business people in sharing interests and other aspects of the Hispanic Chamber.
- **All new members will also receive the following:**
 - Your individual/business name will appear on the home page of the Hispanic Chamber's website as a new member.
 - New members will be introduced at one of the monthly Hispanic Chamber mixers and will be presented with their membership plaque.

The Hispanic Chamber is here to help you get acquainted with our community as well as to assure your success as a business owner.



Date Received:	_____
Date Paid:	_____
Ribbon Cutting Scheduled:	_____
Mixer Scheduled:	_____
Other Needs:	_____

Membership Application

Name of Associate/Individual: _____
 Name of Company: _____
 Contact Person with Company: _____
 Street Address: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Type of Business/Service: _____
 Number of Employees: _____
 Telephone Number: (____) _____ Fax Number: (____) _____
 E-Mail: _____
 Website: _____

Would you be interested in serving on a Chamber Committee? Yes _____ No _____
 If yes, which one(s):

Marketing/Membership _____ Special Events _____ Special Projects _____ Finance _____

Would your company offer a discount of your products/services to the Chamber Membership?
 Yes _____ No _____ Percentage Discount _____%

Membership Rates

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| • Associate * | \$ 50.00 |
| • Individual ** | \$ 50.00 |
| • Company (1-5 Employees) | \$ 100.00 |
| • Company (6-9 Employees) | \$ 150.00 |
| • Company (10-19 Employees) | \$ 175.00 |
| • Company (20-49 Employees) | \$ 250.00 |
| • Company (50 or more Employees) | \$ 500.00 |

Non-Profit Membership is 50% of Private for Profit Membership.
 Provide Employer Identification Number if you're a Non-Profit _____

* Associate is recognized as an individual of an existing HCC company membership.

** Individual is recognized as an individual only, not a business.

Signature _____

Date _____