

Cost of Latino and LGBTQ Campus Offices (Not Including DEI Administration)

These dynamics can contribute to what observers describe as **caste privilege systems**.

A **caste privilege system** is a social structure in which people are assigned different levels of status, opportunity, power, and protection based on membership in a fixed social category, and where those advantages or disadvantages are systematically reinforced by institutions, customs, or laws.

The word “**caste**” originally comes from the Portuguese word *casta*, meaning “lineage” or “breed.” It was used by European observers to describe the hereditary social hierarchy historically associated with India.

Typical Staffing

Most stand-alone student resource centers include:

- Director or coordinator
- 1–2 program staff members
- student assistants

Typical salary costs include:

- Director: \$70,000 – \$110,000
- Staff: \$45,000 – \$70,000 each
- Student workers: \$10,000 – \$30,000

Estimated staffing total:

\$130,000 – \$250,000 per year

Operating Budgets

Additional costs typically include:

- programming events
- cultural celebrations
- speakers
- travel grants
- supplies

- facility maintenance

Typical operational budgets:

\$40,000 – \$150,000 annually

Total Cost per Office

Office Type	Typical Annual Cost
Latino Student Center	\$180,000 – \$350,000
LGBTQ Resource Center	\$150,000 – \$300,000
Gender and Sexuality Center	\$150,000 – \$250,000

Large universities with larger facilities may exceed **\$500,000 annually**.

Cost Per Student

Example calculation:

University enrollment: **20,000 students**

If a Latino student center costs:

\$250,000 per year

Cost per student:

\$12.50 annually

If the university also operates:

- an LGBTQ center
- a Black cultural center
- a women's center
- a Native student center

Combined costs may reach:

\$1 million annually

Cost per student:

approximately \$50 per student per year

Estimated National Spending (Non-DEI Offices Only)

Across the United States:

- approximately **4,000 colleges and universities**
- roughly **1–5 identity-based centers per campus**

Estimated national spending:

\$1.5 billion – \$3 billion annually

for identity-specific student service centers alone.

Summary

Category	Estimated Cost
Latino student office	\$180k – \$350k
LGBTQ resource center	\$150k – \$300k
Cost per student	\$10 – \$50
National total	\$1.5B – \$3B