



HISPANIC FAMILY CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY

*Providing the community with a broad range of culturally relevant social services and advocacy programs that promote and encourage empowerment and self sufficiency since 1976.*

## News Release

### **Hispanic Family Center Launches Green Jobs Training Program**

In April, HFC launches the first Green Jobs Training Program in Camden City. The program, funded by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, is part of a statewide effort to stimulate the economy by creating jobs in the energy efficiency field. Training workers for green jobs is part of Governor Corzine's ambitious Energy Master Plan which calls for the public and private sectors to work together over the next year to invest nearly \$1 billion in energy efficiency and renewable energy. "Governor Corzine recognizes that new approaches to energy will create new pathways to economic prosperity for the Garden State," said Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner David J. Socolow. The Green Jobs sector is expected to experience exponential growth in the coming years as state and federal officials focus their efforts on economic recovery.

Men and women will be trained to perform energy-efficiency audits, to air-seal buildings and inspect weatherization, install insulation, and be familiar with the basic thermodynamics of a home. The twelve week training program includes classroom instruction, team building and workplace readiness as well as safety training and hands-on exposure to real-work occupational settings. Program Director Altie Carrasquillo feels a comprehensive training approach will give workers an advantage when reentering the workforce, "Through this program, we are trying to give our students all the tools they need to succeed in their chosen careers. We believe comprehensive training that includes both vocational and general skills will make students more well rounded candidates for employment."

Camden City was chosen as one of the sites in New Jersey due partly to the high unemployment rate in the area and also to increase opportunities for underserved populations. According to data from the NJ Department of Labor, the current unemployment rate for Camden County is at 7.4%, and steadily rising as the nation continues to lose jobs every month. Hispanic Family Center Executive Director, Elsa Candelario is hoping to change that with the implementation of this program. "The goal is to get our consumers employed in well paying jobs. At HFC we believe that the Green Jobs Training Program will provide a path towards attaining growing careers in a field that offers many opportunities for both men and women," says Candelario. HFC will begin the first round of training in April, with two more training sessions to follow in year one. Persons interested in the program should call Program Coordinator, Megan Barbano-Maxwell at (856) 541-6985.

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The Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey is a multi-service agency dedicated to providing the community with a broad range of culturally relevant social services and advocacy

programs that promote and encourage empowerment and self-sufficiency. To meet this goal the Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey offers over 30 programs including after school programs, employment and training programs, health education and prevention services, mental health services, senior services and substance abuse treatment. Each year the Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey serves over 6,000 individuals and families.

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