



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.

PRESS RELEASE

HISPANIC FAMILY CENTER GRADUATES FIRST CLASS FROM NEW GREEN JOBS TRAINING PROGRAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Camden, NJ (June 18, 2009) – On July 1, 2009, the first training class will graduate from the Hispanic Family Center’s Green Jobs Training Program in Camden. The program, launched as a new initiative in April, is funded by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and 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.

Fifteen men and one woman were trained to perform energy 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 included classroom instruction, team building and workplace readiness as well as safety training and hands-on exposure to real-work occupational settings. After completing the coursework, trainees graduate to paid internships with regional energy efficiency organizations which provide hands-on experience in the field. Green Jobs Program Director, Altie Carrasquillo, feels the comprehensive training approach gives 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 four 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 City is estimated at 16.1 percent, one of the highest rates throughout the state. This month, the state’s unemployment rate moved to 8.8 percent, but remains lower than the national rate of 9.4 percent. 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.



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HFC will begin the second round of training in late July, with one more training session to follow in year one. Persons interested in the program should call Program Coordinator, Megan Barbano Maxwell at (856)-964-4692.

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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 20 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.

Contact:

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Graduation Ceremony

July 1, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.
Boys and Girls Club of Camden County
2 South Dudley Street
Camden, NJ 08105

*Reception immediately following the ceremony.

If you would like to attend this event, please RSVP by June 22nd to Samantha Martinez at (856) 964-4692 ext. 112 or samartinez@hispanicfamilycenter.com