



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**

### **Health & Senior Services Commissioner Awards Eight Community Health Mobilization Grants at the Hispanic Family Center**

Camden, NJ September 9, 2008 — New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Commissioner Heather Howard, in recognition of Minority and Multicultural Health Month, awarded \$800,000 in grants to eight community and faith-based organizations statewide at an awards ceremony held at the Hispanic Family Center today. Grantees joined Commissioner Howard, NJ Office of Minority Health Executive Director Linda Holmes, HFC Board Chairman Israel Colon and HFC Executive Director, Elsa Candelario to raise awareness about health disparities among minority communities in New Jersey.

“As I travel around the state to celebrate Minority and Multicultural Health Month, it is my pleasure to support all the front-line community organizers and organizations that on a daily basis continue to help and support communities dealing with chronic disease,” said Commissioner Howard.”

“We are very pleased to partner with the Department’s Office of Minority and Multicultural Health,” said Elsa Candelario, Executive Director for the Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey. “Our hope is that events like these raise awareness about the critical need for more culturally and linguistically competent health programs and services in South Jersey. These grants will support a range of health care initiatives that will ultimately improve the health of our communities and reduce the number of Emergency Department visits.

The Department awards Community Health Mobilization grants, \$100,000 each, to educate and train community leaders about effective methods and activities that can help individuals live with chronic diseases such as pediatric asthma and diabetes. The Hispanic Family Center received an award to fund its Pediatric Asthma Prevention Program.

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 8,000 individuals and families.

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