

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, March 24, 2017

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**MI CASA RESOURCE CENTER NAMED NATIONAL WOMEN'S BUSINESS  
CENTER OF THE YEAR**

*The Women's Business Center at Mi Casa Resource Center received the 2017 Women's Business Center for Excellence Award by the U.S. Small Business Administration*

**DENVER** – This week, Administrator Linda McMahon, the head of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), announced the 2017 National Small Business Week awardees for 16 different categories. The Women's Business Center (WBC) at Mi Casa Resource Center was selected as the 2017 Women's Business Center for Excellence among 220 other WBCs across the country.

Mi Casa Resource Center (Mi Casa) has successfully hosted Colorado's only WBC since its inception in 1989, providing exceptional services to small businesses – especially those owned by women and minorities. The Women's Business Center at Mi Casa is also one of only two organizations in the state that offers fully bilingual business development services. In 2016, according to SBA year-end data, Mi Casa Women's Business Center was number-one in total capital infusion by a large margin; number-two in number of clients counseled; and, second also in total new business starts.

"We are honored to receive this top national award, which recognizes the hard work of all of our entrepreneurs and our dedicated staff, under the leadership of Elena Vasconez, the Director of our Women's Business Center," said Monique Lovato, CEO/Executive Director of Mi Casa Resource Center.

"All of our entrepreneurs are to be admired for their persistence, creativity, and hard work," Lovato stated. "Most come through our doors with just a dream or an idea to serve the marketplace and many are immigrants and refugees who share the characteristics of risk takers everywhere."

Every year since 1963, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation announcing National Small Business Week, which recognizes the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners.

"More than half of all Americans either own or work for a small business, and they create about two out of three net new jobs in the U.S. each year. I couldn't be prouder of all the awardees this year – they are working to grow small businesses, create 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs, drive innovation, and increase America's global competitiveness. It is an honor during National Small Business Week to honor and celebrate their hard work and success," McMahon said.

*Mi Casa Resource Center (Mi Casa) is a nonprofit organization that has served the Denver community for over 40 years, working to advance the economic success of families with limited opportunities. Learn more at [www.MiCasaResourceCenter.org](http://www.MiCasaResourceCenter.org)*