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Mi Casa Receives \$3.6 Million for Green Jobs Training through Recovery Act

January 13, 2010 (DENVER) – Today the U.S. Department of Labor announced \$150 million in green jobs training grants, including \$3.6 million to Mi Casa Resource Center in Denver.

The two-year grant – part of a group of funding awards known as “Pathways out of Poverty” – is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The grant to Mi Casa and its partner agencies will support efforts to help unemployed and/or low-income individuals, high-school dropouts, ex-offenders, women and minorities in the Five Points area of Denver to get the necessary training in technical and nontechnical skills to obtain jobs in the fast-growing energy efficiency and renewable energy industries of Colorado.

Mi Casa is the lead agency of a partnership that with this grant will offer approximately 500 unemployed residents of the Five Points, Cole, Whittier, Skyland and Clayton neighborhoods of Denver a range of training courses from life skills to highly technical apprenticeship programs, suited to the employment goals of each individual.

“Partner agencies, the individual and a case manager will work together to identify the most appropriate training path for each participant and to ensure the training is of the highest caliber,” says Christine Marquez-Hudson, Executive Director. “This is an enormous opportunity for residents of high-poverty areas of Denver to begin a promising new career path.”

Both technical and non technical courses will be provided in the areas of Energy Efficient Building Construction & Retrofits, Renewable Electrical Power, Deconstruction & Materials Use, and Energy Efficiency Assessment (Residential, Commercial, & Industrial). Courses will be provided for entry, middle, and high level jobs. Case managers will create a unique training program and supportive services package for each client in order to combat the barriers to success that poverty creates and address each individual’s unique challenges.

Mi Casa’s lead partners on this project are Charity House, iCAST, Denver Institute of Urban Studies, American Pathways University, and the Denver Office of Economic Development.

Through the 38 “Pathways out of Poverty” grant awards announced today by the U.S. Department of Labor, targeted populations will receive recruitment and referral services; basic skills, work-readiness and occupational skills training; supportive services to help overcome barriers to employment; and other services at times and locations that are easily accessible. Through these programs, participants will receive certifications and on-the-job training that will lead to employment.

Today’s grants are part of a larger Recovery Act initiative — totaling \$500 million — to fund workforce development projects that promote economic growth by preparing workers for careers in the energy efficiency industries. For a full listing of the grants and project descriptions, visit

<http://www.doleta.gov>. To view a video by Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, visit <http://www.dol.gov/dol/media/webcast/pathways>.

About Mi Casa Resource Center

Mi Casa Resource Center is among the oldest and largest Latino-serving organizations in Colorado. Mi Casa was founded in 1976 by eight Head Start mothers in west Denver who understood that education and employment were essential for women to achieve personal and economic success. Mi Casa was established to create new opportunities for women and their children to succeed. For more than 30 years, Mi Casa has been committed to advancing the economic success of Latino and low-income families through business, career, and youth and family development strategies.

For more information, please visit our website www.MiCasaResourceCenter.org