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360 Acoma St. Denver, CO 80223  
[www.MiCasaResourceCenter.org](http://www.MiCasaResourceCenter.org)

**Media Contacts:**  
Laura Gabbay or Kate Bernuth  
303-573-1302  
[Lgabbay@MiCasaResourceCenter.org](mailto:Lgabbay@MiCasaResourceCenter.org)  
[Kbernuth@MiCasaResourceCenter.org](mailto:Kbernuth@MiCasaResourceCenter.org)

### **Mi Casa Awarded \$451,585 from Colorado Works Statewide Strategic Use Fund**

DENVER (July 15, 2009) – Mi Casa Resource Center will receive \$451,585 in support for our Career Development programs from the Colorado Works Statewide Strategic Use Fund (SSUF). Mi Casa will begin receiving SSUF funds on Sept. 1 for a grant period that runs through June 2011.

The Colorado Works SSUF was established in 2008 (following passage of Senate Bill 177) from an appropriation of federal dollars from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. SSUF invests in communities statewide, in particular striving to serve Colorado's low-income populations.

Mi Casa will use SSUF money to help low-income, TANF-eligible families (with income of less than \$75,000/year and children under 18) to go through one of the agency's three Career Development programs: Construction & Energy Pre-Apprenticeship, Financial Services/Bank Teller Training (begins 8/09) and Nurse Aid Training (begins 2/10).

"In this tough economy where people are losing their jobs, Mi Casa's programs give low-income individuals the opportunity to retrain and enter high-growth industries, which really is hope for the future and for the economic stability for their families." says Christine Marquez-Hudson, executive director of Mi Casa.

The SSUF received over 90 applications but chose only 23 entities for funding. Mi Casa's proposal was successful partly because Mi Casa proposed a sector-focused approach to job training, which is key to success in today's competitive market.

"Sector-based job training engages employers at every stage of the process, in particular in the design and implementation of the program, which ensures the students emerge from the training with the requisite skills to be successful," says Marquez-Hudson.

"Sector-focused is different from traditional job training because of the high degree of involvement of employers, including the continued support of the employee once they have been placed in a job."

Recommendations regarding funding allocations from the SSUF are made by the Colorado Works Strategic Allocation Committee. The recent SSUF grants range in size from \$958,367 to \$137,814.

Other agencies to receive funding from the SSUF: Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County, Catholic Charities of Pueblo, Denver Indian Family Resource, Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition, Community College of Denver, Mountain Resource Center, Inc., Otero County Dept. of Human Services, Rural Solutions, Second Wind Fund, Mesa County Partners, Durango Adult Education Center, ECDC/African Community Center, Jefferson County Workforce Center, and more.

Visit <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDHS-ColoradoWorks/CCW/1228738028494> for a complete list of SSUF grantees.

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### **About Mi Casa Resource Center**

The mission of Mi Casa Resource Center is to advance the economic success of Latino and low-income families. Mi Casa was founded in 1976 by eight Head Start mothers in Denver. These women understood that education and employment were vital for women to become successful on both a personal and economic level. As a result, Mi Casa was established to create these opportunities for adults and youth to become successful. For more than 30 years, Mi Casa has been committed to pursuing its mission through business, career and youth and family development strategies.

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