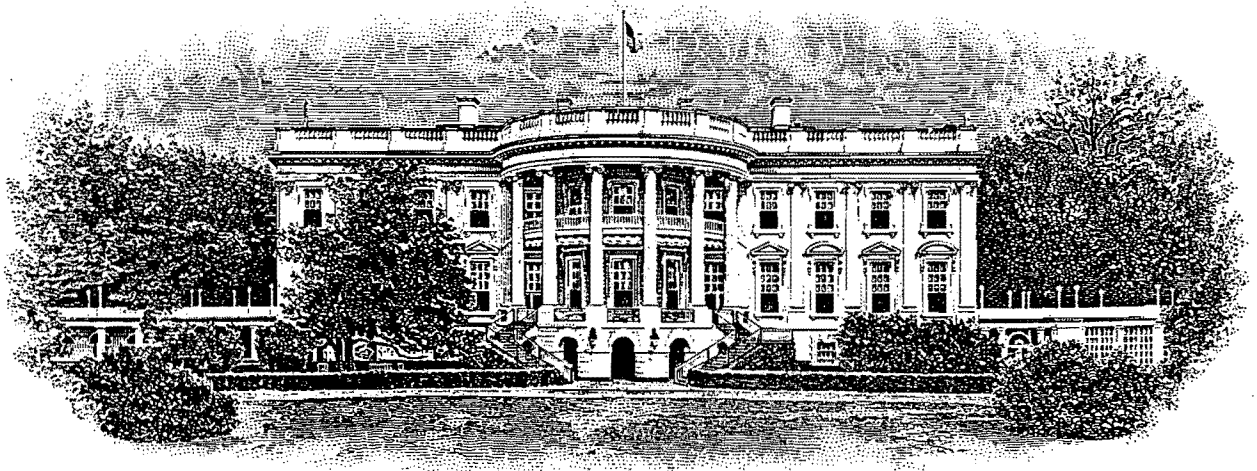




The White House



PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON HOSTS WHITE HOUSE CONVENING ON HISPANIC CHILDREN AND YOUTH

On August 2, 1999, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton hosted a convening at the White House to examine the many challenges and opportunities facing Hispanic young people, particularly in the areas of early childhood development, educational attainment, and adolescence. Mrs. Clinton spotlighted progress that has been made in these areas, announced new public and private efforts, and issued a call to action to all sectors of society to meet challenges that still remain.

Facing the Challenges Before Us. The Hispanic population is among the fastest growing segments of American society and it is also one of the youngest – with one out of every three Hispanics 15 years old or younger. By the year 2000, the number of Hispanics aged 24 or younger is expected to reach 15 million (or 15 percent) of a total youth population of 98 million. This Administration has worked hard to ensure that all of our young people have access to the tools they need to reach their potential, and has developed and promoted programs that specifically reached out to Hispanic students. However, significant challenges still exist – too many Hispanic children are still being left behind. While progress has been made, dropout rates are too high, health insurance rates are too low, and poverty rates far exceed the national average.

Fighting for Essential Investment in Education. Raising the educational achievement of Hispanic Americans is top priority of this Administration. Responding to the findings from the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, the Administration proposed and won nearly \$500 million in funding increases for programs in the Hispanic Education Agenda in the FY 1999 budget. For the second year in a row, the President has proposed increased funds – over \$650 million for FY 2000 – for Department of Education programs that are part of the Administration's Hispanic Education Agenda, including:

- \$320 million to strengthen basic educational skills and raise academic standards;
- \$35 million to train more bilingual/ESL teachers and improve instruction to help students learn English and master their basic academic subjects;
- \$30 million to prepare disadvantaged youth for success in college;
- \$44 million to improve education programs for migrant youth and adults;
- \$190 million in new investments to help adults learn English and become literate.

Increasing Federal Efforts to Address the Needs of Hispanic Children. Mrs. Clinton unveiled new Administration efforts to address the challenges of Hispanic children and youth:

- ***Serving Hispanic Children and Families Better Through Head Start*** Hispanic enrollment has increased by 70,000 during the Clinton Administration, with the program now reaching approximately 220,000 Hispanic children. Despite these increases, Hispanic children remain under-represented, comprising 23.3 percent of Head Start enrollment (excluding Puerto Rico) compared to 29.8 percent of all low income, pre-school children in the nation. The Head Start program is furthering its longstanding commitment to meeting the needs of Hispanics and other under-served populations through a variety of steps to ensure access and culturally appropriate services, including:
 - increasing by 50% the number of points awarded to expansion grant applicants who emphasize outreach to under-served populations, such as seasonal farm workers, recent immigrant families and non-English speaking groups;

- boosting the number of grant application reviewers that have expertise in serving language minority children;
 - working with and monitoring programs to ensure full utilization of community assessment to better target outreach, recruitment and enrollment of under-served populations; and
 - providing specialized technical assistance to communities where changing local demographics have resulted in significant under-served populations
- ***Implementing the Hispanic Education Action Plan.*** The Department of Education is aggressively implementing the Hispanic Education Action Plan, designed to increase academic performance and participation of Hispanic students in critical programs. Specifically, the Education Department is taking a series of new steps to ensure that schools participating in Title I—the largest K-12 education program which enrolls over 3 million Hispanic students—are held accountable for helping Hispanic students meet challenging standards in academic subjects and become proficient in English. These steps include vigilant enforcement of requirements that Hispanic students be included in state assessment programs and that states intervene to turn around low performing schools. The Education Department will also issue new guidance to states and school districts on how to effectively include Hispanic students and meet applicable civil rights requirements in state testing programs, as well as guidance and assistance to schools on effective practices for helping limited English proficient students meet challenging academic standards.

In addition, the Education Department will expand outreach, provide technical assistance, and take additional steps to increase participation of Hispanic students and communities in key programs, such as the 21st Century Learning Centers after-school program and the GEAR-UP program. GEAR-UP enables colleges to form partnerships with high poverty middle schools to help students better prepare for college by providing them with mentors, academic support, and financial aid information.

- ***Building on the Progress of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.*** The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans released “What Works for Latino Youth”, a directory of programs throughout the country that have helped improve the lives of young Hispanics. The White House Initiative will continue to solicit recommendations and produce an updated directory by the end of the year. Additionally, the White House Initiative will organize a national meeting on Latino Educational Excellence in 2000 to follow-up on the First Lady’s convening and develop new strategies to bolster education from early childhood to graduate school.
- ***Promoting Science and Technology Training for Hispanic Students.*** In order to develop a strong and diverse science and technology workforce, the Department of Energy (DOE) formed a strategic partnership with the ‘Latino Science and Engineering Consortium’ that will work to identify, develop, and nurture the next generation of scientists, engineers, technicians and educators in math and science by supporting mentoring programs, technical internships for community college students, research fellowships for undergraduate and graduate students and professional development opportunities in science, math and technology for K-12 teachers serving Hispanic children.
- ***Ensuring Diversity of Americorps.*** Sixteen percent of all Americorps members are Hispanic. To ensure that the program continues to reflect accurately the face of America, Americorps is committing to increase its efforts to recruit Hispanic youth by featuring Latinos in ads, translating recruitment materials into Spanish and forming partnerships with Hispanic-serving universities and organizations.
- ***Helping to Prepare Hispanic Youth for College.*** The Department of Education also released “Como Ayudar a Su Hijo A Aprender Matematicas,” a Spanish version of “Helping Your Child Learn Math.” This tool for parents is a key part of America Counts, the Department of Education’s mathematics initiative dedicated to making the improvement of student achievement in mathematics a national priority. This Spanish guide, which is available free through the Department’s toll-free number, 1-800-USA-LEARN,

includes sample word problems, math games, and other activities designed to help children in the elementary grades learn math, and to help Hispanic parents become actively involved in their children's learning. In addition, The Department of Education is expanding its "Think College Early" campaign to target the Hispanic community by holding a special session in 2000 to help parents and students learn about necessary steps to prepare for college.

Encouraging Private Sector Investment in Hispanic Children. A number of private sector organizations, including corporations, foundations, and media organizations have committed resources to addressing the needs of Hispanic children and youth.

- ***AT&T: Closing the Technology Gap.*** Building on its long history of enhancing educational opportunities for Hispanics, AT&T committed at the event to work with leading Hispanic-serving organizations over the next 3 to 6 months to build on existing efforts and introduce new programs to fill the technology gap for Latino youth throughout the nation. Some activities will include the development of neighborhood-based technology centers, programs targeted at early awareness and parental involvement to increase Latino representation in the technology field, and support of programs that inform teachers serving Latino students in urban and rural locations on how to use technology in the classroom.
- ***Supporting Hispanic Access to After-School Programs.*** The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, as part of its ongoing partnership with the Department of Education, also made a commitment of more than \$300,000 to improve Latino participation in after-school programs. This new effort builds on the Foundation's \$83 million commitment in 1997 to support after-school activities in coordination with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.
- ***Media Organizations.*** The First Lady's event – coupled with the efforts of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy – has stimulated commitments from an impressive array of media leaders concerned about Hispanic youth, their families and their communities. These leaders understand that the media can be a powerful force for raising awareness and showcasing solutions. They have committed to a variety of activities including PSAs, radio programs, talk shows, newspaper supplements and magazine features – all directed to improving the lives of Hispanic youth. The leaders spearheading these activities are: Cristina Saralegui, CEO, Cristina Saralegui Enterprises and Host, "The Cristina Show"; Lisa Quiroz, Publisher, People in Espanol; Monica Lozano, Associate Publisher, La Opinion; Joaquin Blaya, Chairman and CEO, Radio Unica; Patricia Fili-Krushel, President ABC Television Network; Daisy Exposito, President, The Bravo Group; Consuelo Luz, President, Hispanic Radio Network; James McNamara, President and CEO, Telemundo Network.
- ***Univision Community Affairs Campaign Aimed at Hispanic Youth.*** Univision, the network and its affiliated stations, is committing to a multi-year campaign to support high academic achievement in the Hispanic community, from pre-school through college. Univision plans to kick-off this campaign in August in conjunction with various back-to-school events. The campaign will include: a national public service announcement (PSA) campaign with Univision national on-air talent; local affiliate PSAs and events with Univision local affiliate on-air talent; integration of education information into entertainment and news programming; and a series of national conferences and panels at established conferences.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE

Working on Behalf of the Hispanic Community

ECONOMY

Closing the Book on A Generation of Deficits. In 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. This year, the Administration expects the budget surplus to be \$99 billion, the largest budget surplus in history.

Saving Social Security. Earlier this year, the President outlined his plan to save Social Security and extend the life of the Social Security Trust Fund. The President would lock away the Social Security surpluses to prevent them from being used to fund other programs. In addition, his plan would transfer the interest savings from reducing the national debt to the Social Security Trust Fund and increase the return on Social Security funds through private investment. The President has put forth a balanced budget that maintains our sound economic strategy and invest the budget surplus in our long-term goals: saving Social Security and securing Medicare for the 21st Century.

Nearly 19 Million New Jobs. More than 90 percent of the new jobs have been created in the private sector, the highest percentage in 50 years.

Record-Low Unemployment for Latinos. Under President Clinton and Vice President Gore, the Latino unemployment rate has dropped from 11.6 percent in 1992 to 7.2 percent in 1998 -- its lowest annual level ever. As of June 1999, the monthly Hispanic unemployment was even lower at 6.8 percent.

Income of Median Hispanic Households Up \$2,553 in Past Two Years. In 1997, the income of the median Hispanic household, adjusted for inflation, increased from \$25,477 in 1996 to \$26,628 in 1997 -- an increase of \$1,151 or 4.5 percent. Over the past two years, the income of the typical Hispanic household has risen \$2,553 -- or nearly 11 percent -- the largest two-year increase in Hispanic income on record.

Real Wages Are Rising for Hispanics. The real wages of Hispanics have risen rapidly in the past two years, up 4.2 percent for Hispanic men and 2.7 percent for Hispanic women since 1996.

Inflation -- Lowest Since 1950s. Inflation remains non-existent at 1.6 percent for the beginning of 1999. In 1998, the GDP price index rose 1.0 percent at an annual rate -- its lowest level since the 1950s.

Strong Private Sector Growth. In the first quarter, private-sector GDP growth was up 4.4 percent. Since President Clinton took office, the private sector of the economy has grown an average of 4.0 percent per year -- compared to 3.0 percent under President Reagan and 1.3 percent under President Bush.

Tax Cuts For Low-Income Working Families. President Clinton's 1993 Economic Plan provided tax cuts to 15 million hard-pressed working families by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The average family with two kids who received the EITC received a tax cut of \$1,026. In 1997, the EITC lifted more than 1.2 million Hispanics out of poverty.

Largest Hispanic Poverty Drop In Two Decades. In 1997, the Hispanic poverty rate dropped from 29.4 percent to 27.1 percent -- the largest one-year drop in Hispanic poverty since 1978. Since President Clinton took office, Hispanic poverty has dropped from 30.6 percent to 27.1 percent. While this marks significant progress, President Clinton will continue to fight for policies that help to raise incomes and reduce poverty.

Minimum Wage Increased. The President raised the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour -- directly benefiting 1.6 million Hispanic workers.

Fighting for Paycheck Equity. The President has called on Congress to pass legislation to strengthen laws prohibiting wage discrimination. In 1997, the median earnings of Hispanic women represented 56 percent of the median earnings for all men.

Two and a Half Times More Small Business Loans to Hispanic Entrepreneurs. Between 1993 and 1997 the SBA approved nearly 15,000 loans to Hispanic entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. In 1997 alone, the Small Business Administration granted more than 3,300 loans, worth \$615 million, to Hispanic small business owners, two and a half times the number of loans granted in 1992.

Supporting Minority Business Communities and Increasing Access to Capital. Building on the efforts of the SBA, Vice President Gore unveiled aggressive plans to increase lending and business services to the Hispanic and African American business communities nationwide. SBA has entered partnership agreements with national leadership organizations, and engaged its national network of field offices and resources in the effort. SBA also licensed the first Hispanic-managed venture capital fund. In addition, the Vice President announced an unprecedented agreement between SBA and the "Big Three" U.S. automakers to increase subcontracting awards to minority businesses by nearly \$3 billion over the next three years -- a 50 percent increase over current levels.

Ensuring Minority Business Owners Have a Fair Opportunity to Compete. The President signed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century into law on June 9, 1998. The Act protects the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, a program that ensures that minority and women-owned businesses have an opportunity to compete for transportation projects. The Administration helped defeat an amendment to the House version of this bill that would have eliminated the DBE Program. In a different measure, the President also approved the creation of a new program to target assistance to minority-owned businesses in industries that continue to reflect the effects of discrimination. As a result, thousands of minority-owned businesses will be able to compete more effectively for government contracts.

Expanding Investment in Urban and Rural Areas. The Clinton Administration has announced 105 EZs and ECs across the country. This effort was proposed by President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, and passed by Congress in 1993. The EZ/EC effort has generated more than \$2 billion of new private sector investment in community development activities. The President has also signed into law a second round of EZs -- 15 new urban and 5 new rural zones -- which will include tax incentives, small business expensing, and private activity bonds. In FY 99, President Clinton and Congress provided first-year funding of \$55 million for the new EZs, and \$5 million in first-year funding for 20 new rural Enterprise Communities announced in January. The FY 2000 Budget proposes mandatory funding for ten years: \$150 million a year for urban EZs and Strategic Planning Communities; \$10 million a year for rural EZs; and \$5 million a year for rural ECs.

Expanding Access to Capital with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). Proposed and signed into law by the President in 1994, the CDFI Fund, through grants, loans and equity investments, is helping to create a network of community development financial institutions in distressed areas across the United States. In FY99, funding was increased 19 percent to \$95 million from \$80 million. The FY 2000 budget proposes to expand funding for the CDFI Fund to \$125 million--a \$30 million increase from 1999.

Working on Behalf of Minority Farmers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working to strengthen programs and increase outreach targeted to underserved communities, including increasing its lending to minority and women producers. Between 1993 and 1998, direct lending to these groups has nearly doubled -- from \$46.5 million in FY93 to \$91 million in FY98.

Moving from Welfare to Work. With the President's leadership, the Balanced Budget included \$3 billion to move long-term welfare recipients and unemployed non-custodial fathers into jobs and provided tax credits for employers to hire and retain long-term welfare recipients. The FY 1999 Welfare-to-Work competitive grants will support innovative strategies to address specific challenges to employment including limited English proficiency. The President's budget seeks \$1 billion to extend the Welfare-to-Work program to help more long-term recipients and low income fathers in high poverty areas go to work and support their families.

Helping People Get to Work. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century authorizes \$750 million over five years, and the FY99 budget included \$75 million, for the President's Access to Jobs initiative and reverse commute grants to help communities design innovative transportation solutions so that families who need to work can get to work. The President's Budget proposes to double funding for FY 2000, bringing the program to the authorized level of \$150 million.

Assisting Families with Housing Vouchers. In 1999, the President proposed and Congress approved \$283 million for 50,000 new housing vouchers for welfare recipients who need housing assistance to get or keep a job. Families will use these welfare-to-work housing vouchers to move closer to a new job, to reduce a long commute, or to secure more stable housing that will eliminate emergencies which keep them from getting to work every day on time. The President's FY 2000 Budget provides \$430 million for 75,000 welfare-to-work housing vouchers, including \$144 million in new funds for 25,000 additional vouchers.

Providing Incentives to Save. The President signed into law a five-year, \$125 million demonstration program for Individual Development Accounts, providing incentives for low income families to save for a first home, higher education or to start a new business, effectively completing his 1992 community empowerment agenda. The FY99 budget includes \$10 million to launch this initiative, and the President has proposed to double the commitment to \$20 million in FY 2000.

Increasing Homeownership. The Clinton Administration launched a program to increase the homeownership rate of Hispanics in the U.S. through advertising, education and counseling programs and working with lending institutions to better serve the Hispanic community. Progress has been made, four million Hispanics now own their homes, one million more Hispanic homeowners since the first quarter of 1994.

Helping More Families Become Homeowners with the "Play-by-the-Rules" Homeownership Initiative. The FY99 budget included \$25 million for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to start this new initiative that will make homeownership more accessible to families who have a good rental history but have difficulty purchasing a home; 10,000 lower-income and minority families who are currently renting will benefit from this initiative. The FY 2000 budget proposes a second round of \$15 million for this initiative.

Expanding Low-Income Housing Tax Credit by 40 Percent. In 1993, President Clinton fulfilled his promise to permanently extend the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, spurring the private development of low-income housing and helping to build 75,000-90,000 housing units each year. President Clinton has proposed to expand the credit by 40 percent. Over the next five years, this expansion would mean an additional 150,000 to 180,000 quality affordable rental units.

FIGHTING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Building One America. The President has led the nation in an effort to become One America in the 21st Century: a place where we respect others' differences and, at the same time, embrace the common values that unite us. AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson served on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race, which the President charged with overseeing this effort. The President, the Administration and the Advisory Board were actively involved in public outreach efforts -- including holding numerous public meetings and town halls -- to engage Americans across the nation in this historic effort. One of the critical elements of the President's Initiative on Race was identifying, highlighting and sharing with the nation promising practices -- local and national efforts to promote racial reconciliation. The Advisory Board presented their final report to the President on September 18, 1998, and recommended that conversations on race continue. President Clinton also appointed Robert B. (Ben) Johnson as Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Office on the President's Initiative for One America, a new office the President created to follow up on the work of his Initiative on Race.

An Administration That Looks like One America. The President appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson and Small Business Administrator Aida Alvarez are members of the President's Cabinet. Federico Peña and Henry Cisneros previously served in the President's Cabinet.

Judicial Appointments. Six percent of all President Clinton's judicial appointments are Hispanics including the Honorable Jose Cabranes, Judge, Second Circuit U.S. Circuit Court, The Honorable Carlos Moreno, Judge, Central District of California, U.S. District Court and the Honorable Hilda Tagle, Judge, Southern District of Texas, U.S. District Court.

Senior Level Administration Appointments. President Clinton has appointed more Hispanics to senior level positions than any President in American history. Eight percent of Presidential appointments, including boards and commissions, are held by Hispanics. These Presidential appointees include Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) President George Muñoz; Norma Cantu, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education; Saul Ramirez, Jr., Department of Housing and Urban Development Deputy Secretary; Albert Jaquez, Administrator of the St. Lawrence Seaway, Department of Transportation; Eluid Levi Martinez, Commissioner of Bureau of Reclamation at the Department of Interior; Ida L. Castro, Chair, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Patricia T. Montoya, Commissioner for Children, Youth & Families at the Department of Health and Human Services; and John U. Sepulveda, Deputy Director at the Office of Personnel Management. White House appointees include: Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste; Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Mickey Ibarra; and Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs Janet Murguia.

Opposed California Prop. 209 and Similar Measures. The Clinton Administration strongly opposes state and local initiatives to eliminate affirmative action programs that expand opportunities for Hispanics and others. The Administration opposed Proposition 209 in California and filed *amicus* briefs opposing Prop. 209, which currently prohibits state affirmative action programs. The Clinton Administration opposed a similar initiative in Houston, which was defeated and opposed an initiative in Washington that is similar to Prop. 209. In all these cases, representatives of the administration have spoken out strongly against these initiatives as unfair and a barrier to equality.

Ordered an Assessment of Affirmative Action Programs. The President ordered a comprehensive review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action is still an effective and important tool to expand educational and economic opportunity to all Americans. This review of federal affirmative action programs has helped to ensure that these programs are fair and effective and that they can survive legal challenges. As a result, programs that benefit Hispanics, including students, working men and women, and business owners, remain in effect and are more likely to be upheld by the courts.

Reducing Backlog and Expanding Alternative Dispute Resolution at Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Thanks to President Clinton, the FY99 budget included \$279 million -- a \$37 million increase over the previous year -- to significantly expand EEOC's alternative dispute resolution program and reduce the backlog of private sector discrimination complaints. The final budget fully funds the President's request -- providing the first real increase for EEOC in several years. The President's FY2000 budget request provides \$312 million for the EEOC, a 12 percent increase over 1999.

Working to Ensure Fairness and Remove Barriers to High Quality Education. The Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Education is working to eliminate discriminatory educational practices within schools that contribute to deficiencies in minority student achievement. These priorities included the inappropriate placement of minority students in special education, limited access of minority students to challenging curricula and programs such as gifted and honors classes and the lack of comparable resources.

Ensuring Election Fairness. The Clinton Administration defended racially fair redistricting plans against claims that they were unconstitutional and prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties. Continued enforcement efforts to ensure that citizens who rely on Spanish have the same opportunities to participate in voting-related activities as English-speaking voters.

Oppose English-Only Legislation. Strongly opposed legislation to make English the official language of the United States which would have jeopardized services and programs for non-English speakers and jeopardized assistance to the tens of thousands of new immigrants and others seeking to learn English as adults.

Increasing Voter Registration. Since 1995, the National Voter Registration Act or "Motor Voter" law has registered nearly 28 million new voters and made voting easier for millions more. [FEC, 6/99; FEC, 6/97]

Opposed California Prop. 187. Opposed California's Proposition 187, which would have made illegal immigrants ineligible for public school education at all levels and ineligible for public health care services.

Working for Fair Housing. The President proposed and won a major expansion of HUD's Fair Housing programs. The final budget expands HUD's Fair Housing programs from \$30 million in FY98 to \$40 million in FY99. That 33-percent increase includes \$7.5 million for a new audit-based enforcement initiative proposed by the Administration. The President's FY 2000 budget proposes to increase HUD's fair housing activities by another 17 percent.

Defended Fairness. The Clinton Administration has filed more cases between 1993 and 1997 to enforce fair housing laws than any other Administration (more than 500 cases). For instance, this Administration desegregated a Vidor, Texas, public housing complex and ordered a Mississippi bank to implement remedial lending plans for minority customers who were unfairly denied loans by the bank.

Eliminated Discriminatory "Redlining" Practices. The Clinton Administration negotiated agreements with health care agencies to eliminate discriminatory "redlining" practices denying home health care services based on residential location.

Working to Ensure a Fair, Accurate and Complete Census. The Clinton Administration is working to ensure that Census 2000 is the most accurate census possible using the best, most up-to-date scientific methods as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. According to the Census Bureau, the 1990 Census missed 8.4 million people and double-counted 4.4 million others. Nationally, 5 percent of Hispanics were not counted in the 1990 census. While missing or miscounting so many people is a problem, the fact that certain groups -- such as children, the poor, people of color, city dwellers and people who live in rural rental homes -- were missed more often than others made the undercount even more inaccurate. A fair and accurate Census is a fundamental part of a representative democracy and is the basis for providing equality under the law. The President is determined to have a fair and full count in 2000.

IMMIGRATION

Fairness for Immigrants. The President worked with Congress to correct the most egregious impacts of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. As a result, almost a million people will be able to proceed with legalizing their immigration status under the former standards of immigration law and not the new, stricter and more burdensome standards enacted in 1996.

Strengthening the Naturalization Process. The President has made naturalization a top priority of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in order to continue fostering legal immigration while combating illegal immigration. For instance, over one million individuals were naturalized in 1996. The Administration continues to work to streamline and improve the naturalization process so that eligible individuals who have played by the rules can become full partners in America. In FY99, the Administration won an infusion of new resources to reduce the backlog of naturalization applications and improve customer service.

Defended Immigrant Rights. The Administration defeated legislative efforts which would have significantly eroded health care for immigrants. The bipartisan agreement strengthened the sponsorship requirement while preserving the basic ability of families to reunify.

Reversing Unfair Cuts; Protects Legal Immigrants Who Become Disabled and Those Currently Receiving Benefits. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 restored \$11.5 billion in SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants whose benefits were also terminated in welfare reform. This law protects those immigrants now receiving assistance, ensuring that they will not be turned out of their apartments or nursing homes or otherwise left destitute. And for immigrants already here but not receiving benefits, the BBA does not change the rules retroactively. Immigrants in the country as of August 22, 1996, but not receiving benefits at that time who subsequently become disabled will also be fully eligible for SSI and Medicaid benefits. When the President signed the 1996 Welfare Reform Law, he pledged to go back and change provisions that have nothing to do with welfare reform, such as the cutting off benefits to legal immigrants. Critics said the changes would never be made. However, in 1997 and again in 1998, the President followed through on his pledge -- and won many of the changes he sought in the 1996 law. The President's FY 2000 Budget would restore eligibility for SSI and Medicaid to legal immigrants who enter the country after that date if they have been in the United

States for five years and become disabled after entering the United States. This proposal would cost approximately \$930 million and assist an estimated 54,000 legal immigrants by 2004, about half of whom would be elderly.

Assuring Families Access to Health Care and Other Benefits. In May 1999, the Vice President announced new actions to assure families that enrolling in Medicaid or the new Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and receiving other critical benefits, such as school lunch and child care services, will not affect their immigration status. The new Department of Justice regulation clarifies a widespread misconception that has deterred eligible populations from enrolling in these programs and undermined the nation's public health. In addition, the Vice President directed Federal agencies to send guidance to their field offices, program grantees and to work with community organizations to educate Americans about this new policy.

EDUCATION

Made the Largest Investment in Education in 30 Years. Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill.

Modernizing Our Schools. The President has proposed federal tax credits to help rebuild, modernize, and build 6,000 public schools nationwide. Much of this funding is targeted to the cities with the highest numbers of low-income children.

Reducing Class Size. Last year, the President won a down payment on his initiative to reduce class size to a national average of 18 students in grades 1-3 to help local schools hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers. Research shows that students do better academically in smaller classes, especially minority and low-income students. The President's proposal targets substantial funding to the communities that need it most, and he has threatened to veto legislation that would replace that class size initiative with a block grant that doesn't guarantee the continuation of a nationwide class size initiative and denies adequate funding to the communities that need it most.

Supporting Reading Excellence. More than 1000 colleges have committed work-study students to tutor children in reading, and thousands of AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers are organizing volunteer reading campaigns. In addition, the President won \$260 million for a new child literacy initiative, consistent with the President's America Reads proposal in the FY99 budget. The FY2000 budget includes funding to continue the Clinton-Gore Administration Reading Excellence Program -- helping train reading tutors and coordinating after-school, weekend, and summer reading programs linked to in-school instruction; helping train teachers to teach reading; and helping parents help children prepare to learn to read.

Greater Access to Education Technology. The President has made an unprecedented commitment to bringing technology into schools. In the FY99 budget, President Clinton won \$75 million to fund technology training for teachers and \$10 million for new grants to public-private partnerships in low-income communities to provide residents access to computer facilities for educational and employment purposes. Education technology has always been a top priority for the President and Vice President;

since 1993, they have created the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund and increased overall investments in educational technology by thirty-fold, from \$23 million to \$698 million this year. The Administration has also secured low-cost connections (the E-rate) to the Internet for schools and libraries.

Getting Good Teachers to Underserved Areas. The FY99 budget contained \$75 million for new teacher quality initiatives -- programs that will help recruit and prepare thousands of teachers to teach in high-poverty urban and rural communities and will strengthen teacher preparation programs across the country.

Strengthening Educational Accountability and Excellence. 11 million low-income students now benefit from extra support to meet high expectations and challenging standards because of increased funding for the Title I program and reforms proposed and signed into law by President Clinton in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This year, President Clinton has proposed building on this progress with further strengthening accountability in these federal programs, improving teacher quality, increasing school safety, expanding public school choice, and providing extra support through summer-school, after-school and other programs to help students master the basics and reach challenging academic standards. The reauthorization will also support teacher education programs that develop the ability of regular classroom teachers to teach limited English proficient (LEP) students.

Enacted a Hispanic Education Action Plan. The Hispanic dropout rate is unacceptably high, and is substantially higher for Hispanics than African-Americans and White non-Hispanics. The Administration is reaching out to Hispanic youth, encouraging them to stay in school, do well academically and graduate from high school, and go on to college so that they can compete successfully for good jobs and take advantage of promising career opportunities. As part of these efforts, the Clinton Administration put forth and won funding increases for a Hispanic Education Action Plan in the FY99 budget. As part of this plan, the President and Vice President proposed significant increases in a number of programs that enhance educational opportunity for Hispanic Americans. The final budget included increases of \$494 million for these programs, including an increase of \$70 million for TRIO college preparation programs over FY98, which will now provide support services to over 700,000 students, and an additional \$50 million for Bilingual Education Professional Development -- double the FY98 level -- to begin to provide 20,000 teachers over five years with the training they need to teach Limited English Proficient students effectively. Moreover, funding for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), colleges and universities with at least 25 percent Hispanic enrollments was more than doubled from \$12 million to \$28 million in FY 99. In FY 2000, the President has proposed over a \$650 million increase in funds for Department of Education programs that are part of the Administration's Hispanic Education Agenda.

Expanding College Opportunity with Tuition Tax Credits, Education IRAs, and Largest Increase in Pell Grants in 20 Years. The President is making the first two years of college universally available with \$1500 HOPE Scholarship tax credits and a 20 percent lifetime learning tax credit helps offset tuition costs for college or lifetime learning. The expanded education IRA allows penalty- and tax-free withdrawals for education. And in 1999, nearly four million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,125, the largest maximum award ever. In the 1995-96 school year, 54 percent of all Hispanic students enrolled full-time in college received a Pell Grant.

Established a Hispanic Advisory Commission. In 1994, the President issued an Executive Order on Educational Excellence for Hispanics which established an advisory commission to oversee the improvement in education for Hispanics and would work to ensure that Hispanic-Serving Institutions will have more input regarding educational goals and issues of concern to Hispanics. The Commission's report identified contributing factors impacting attainment of educational excellence, corrective policy actions, and plans for program development and funding.

Implemented the Student Diversity Partnership Program. Partnered with Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, an Indian Science and Engineering Society and the Center for the Advancement of Hispanics in Science and Engineering Education to implement the Student Diversity Partnership Program. This program will ensure an adequate supply of diverse and qualified scientists and engineers for the 21st century. In addition, the White House recently awarded Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring Grants to both individual mentors and institutions that foster mentoring, helping to ensure that America's future scientists and engineers come from all of the nation's racial and cultural segments of the population.

AmeriCorps College Support. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps, with Hispanics comprising 13 percent of all participants (1996 data) In 1999, nearly 50,000 young people will take advantage of the opportunity to serve and will earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans.

Establishing the GEAR-UP. In FY99, the President won \$120 million to create a new initiative which would promote partnerships between schools and institutions of higher education to provide about 100,000 low-income middle and high school students with academic and support services to help them prepare for and enter college. The President is proposing to double this initiative this year.

Expanding Investments In Youth Education And Training. While House Republicans attempted to eliminate the successful Summer Jobs program in FY99, President Clinton prevailed with his request for \$871 million in funding, which will finance up to 530,000 summer jobs for disadvantaged youth. The Youth Opportunity Area Initiative program provides high school dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24 with academic and job-skills training, as well as apprenticeships building and rehabilitating affordable housing. The President proposed and won \$250 million for this new innovative program in the FY99 budget.

Teaching Job Skills and Building Homes Through "Youthbuild." Through the *Youthbuild* program, nearly 2,300 high school dropouts have developed valuable job skills while building or renovating homes for hundreds of low-income families. This program offers young adults, ranging in age from 16 to 24, the opportunity to gain leadership skills, earn a high school diploma or GED, learn a valuable trade, and provide much-needed housing to families nationwide. More than \$170 million in grants have been made under *Youthbuild* since its inception in 1993, enabling over 7,800 young people to take part in building or rehabilitating more than 3,650 houses and apartments units in their communities. Of the 7,800 served by *Youthbuild*, an estimated 1,170 are Hispanic youth.

Strengthening Bilingual and Immigrant Education. The President is committed to ensuring that students with limited English skills get the extra help they need in order to learn English and meet the same high standards expected for all students. The Clinton administration fought for and won a 35% increase in bilingual and immigrant education in the 1997 budget deal. For FY99, the Administration fought for and won a doubling of the investments in bilingual teacher training as part of its Hispanic Education Action Plan. Bilingual education funding helps school districts teach English to more than a million limited English proficient (LEP) children and helps LEP students to achieve to the same high standards as all other students. It also provides teachers with the training they need to teach limited English proficient students. The Immigrant Education program helps more than a thousand school districts provide supplemental instructional services to more than 800,000 recent immigrant students. In his proposal to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the President has proposed additional help to ensure that all teachers are well-trained to meet the needs of students with Limited English Proficiency. His proposal would also make schools and districts more accountable for helping children with Limited English Proficiency master their academic subjects and learn English.

Extra Help for Limited-English Proficient Children. In 1994, President Clinton reformed Title I -- the major elementary and secondary program for disadvantaged children -- clearing away barriers that had prevented limited-English proficient children from getting help. Now Hispanics are 32% of the children served in Title I, the largest share of all communities. The FY99 budget provides a \$301 million boost to the Title I program.

More Assistance for Migrant Children and Families. Migrant families face particularly difficult obstacles to gaining the education and training they would need to improve their standard of living. President Clinton improved the Migrant Education Program in the 1994 reauthorization, and won a 16 percent increase in FY99. As part of his Hispanic Education Action Plan, he also won increases for the High School Equivalency Program, the College Assistance Migrant Program, as well as funding for a Migrant Youth Job Training Demonstration.

Expanding Access to English Language/Civics Education. The President's FY 2000 budget supports a \$190 million increase for adult education and family literacy, including a \$70 million investment for the English Language and Civics Education Initiative: Common Ground Partnerships. This initiative will help states and communities provide limited English proficient adults with expanded access to high quality English as a Second Language programs linked to civics and life skills instruction on understanding and navigating our government system, the public education system, workplace, and other key institutions in American life.

Reducing the Drop-Out Rate Through Right Track Partnerships. The President's FY 2000 budget provides \$100 million for "Right Track Partnerships" to promote partnerships between schools, employers, and community-based organizations that devise innovative community-wide approaches to increase the rate at which economically disadvantaged and limited-English proficient youth complete and excel in high school and subsequently increase the rate at which these youth go on to post-secondary education, training, and higher paying careers. This new proposal builds on last year's Hispanic Education Action Plan, which received nearly \$500 million for FY1999.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. In 1998, President Clinton announced an initiative to end racial and ethnic health disparities. The effort sets a national goal of eliminating the longstanding disparities by the year 2010 in six key health areas: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations. There are major health disparities among Hispanics. Latinos are nearly twice as likely to develop diabetes than non-Latinos and Latinos have two to three times the rate of stomach cancer as white Americans. The President announced a five-step plan -- led by Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. David Satcher -- to mobilize the resources and expertise of the federal government, the private sector, and local communities. In the FY99 budget, Congress took a critical first step in investing in the President's multi-year proposal. The President's FY 2000 budget has proposed \$145 million to continue this program's activities.

Addressing HIV/AIDS in Communities of Color. Racial and ethnic communities make up the fastest growing portion of HIV/AIDS cases (more than 50 percent of all new HIV cases). As part of the FY99 budget, the Clinton Administration fought for and won a comprehensive new initiative that invests an unprecedented \$156 million to improve prevention efforts in high-risk communities and expand access to cutting-edge HIV therapies and other treatment needed for HIV/AIDS.

Focused Health Efforts. Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop culturally-competent systems of care for children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program. Negotiated agreements with hospitals and nursing homes to eliminate barriers to equal access for minorities based on language.

Working to Enact a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights for All Americans. President Clinton has called on the Congress to pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need. The bill should include important patient protections such as: assuring direct access to specialists; real emergency room protections; continuity of care provisions that protect patients from abrupt changes in treatment; a fair, timely, and independent appeals process for patient grievances; and enforcement provisions to make these rights real. Leading by example, the President directed all federal agencies to ensure that their employees and beneficiaries have the benefits and rights guaranteed under the President's proposed Patients' Bill of Rights.

Protecting and Strengthening Medicare. The 1997 Balanced Budget Act extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for at least a decade; expanded choices in health plans; and provided beneficiaries new preventive benefits. Today, Medicare provides health insurance to more than two million elderly and disabled Hispanics and six percent of all beneficiaries currently enrolled in Medicare are Hispanic. President Clinton is working to modernize and strengthen Medicare to prepare it for the challenges the program faces in the 21st Century. This historic initiative would make Medicare more competitive and efficient; modernize and reform Medicare's benefits, including a long-overdue prescription drug benefit and cost-sharing protections for preventive benefits; and make an unprecedented long-term financing commitment to the program that would extend the life of the Medicare trust fund to 2027.

Extended Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Because of the President's leadership, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included \$24 billion to provide real health care coverage to up to five million more children, the largest children's health care budget increase since Medicaid was created in 1965. Minority children make up a disproportionate number of the over 10 million uninsured children. Hispanic children make up nearly 30 percent of all uninsured children. The Administration is actively reaching out to communities to target and enroll eligible, uninsured children in CHIP.

Providing Health Care to Children and Pregnant Women. Under current law, states have the option to provide health coverage to immigrant children and pregnant women who entered the country before August 22, 1996. The President's FY 2000 Budget gives states the option to extend Medicaid or CHIP coverage to low-income legal immigrant children and Medicaid to pregnant women who entered the country after August 22, 1996. The proposal would cost \$325 million and provide critical health insurance to approximately 55,000 children and 23,000 women by FY 2004. This proposal would reduce the number of high-risk pregnancies, ensure healthier children, and lower the cost of emergency Medicaid deliveries.

Protecting Families. Family and Medical Leave allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for seriously ill family members, new born or adoptive children, or their own serious health problems without fear of losing their jobs. About 91 million workers are covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act and millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment.

Increased WIC -- \$1 Billion Higher. Under President Clinton, participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has expanded by 1.7 million -- from 5.7 million in 1993 to 7.4 million women, infants, and children in 1998, with funding rising from \$2.9 billion to \$3.9 billion (FY99). Research shows that every \$1 increase in the prenatal care portion of the WIC program cuts between \$1.77 and \$3.90 in medical expenses in the first 60 days following childbirth. In 1996, 30 percent of the infants who benefited from WIC were Hispanic.

Restoring Food Stamp Benefits for Legal Immigrants. The Agricultural Research Act of 1998 provided Food Stamps for 225,000 legal immigrant children, senior citizens, and people with disabilities who enter the United States by August 22, 1996. The President's FY 2000 Budget would extend this provision by allowing legal immigrants in the United States on August 22, 1996 who subsequently reach age 65 to be eligible for Food Stamps at cost of \$60 million, restoring benefits to about 20,000 elderly legal immigrants by 2004.

Expanded Head Start By More than 60 Percent. Since 1993, President Clinton has expanded Head Start by 57 percent, from \$2.8 billion in FY93 to \$4.4 billion in FY98. During the Clinton Administration, Hispanic enrollment has increased by 70,000 and at a rate nearly twice as fast as non-Hispanic enrollment. Despite these increases, Hispanic children remain under-represented in the program, and the Administration is stepping up efforts to ensure access and culturally appropriate services. Also, the President's FY 2000 budget includes \$607 million in new funds to improve and

expand Head Start, including a \$23 million request for Migrant Head Start that would improve quality and reach as many as 2,000 new children.

Raised Immunization Rates to All Time High. Since 1993, childhood immunization rates have reached all-time highs, with 90 percent or more of America's toddlers receiving the most critical doses of vaccines for children by age 2. For the most critical childhood vaccines, vaccination levels are nearly the same for preschool children of all racial and ethnic groups, narrowing a gap that was estimated to be as wide as 26 percentage points a generation ago. But despite this program, as of 1997, 79 percent of white children had received the recommended series of vaccinations by age 2 compared to 72 percent of Hispanic children whom had been vaccinated against childhood disease. To help increase participation, on April 20, 1999, Secretary Shalala announced a new Spanish-language childhood immunization public awareness campaign, "Vacunelo A Tiempo Todo el Tiempo" (Vaccinate Your Children On time, Every Time), to create and distribute culturally relevant and language appropriate educational materials to help raise Hispanic immunization rates to the national average.

Proposed the Largest Single Investment in Child Care in the Nation's History. In 1998, the President proposed an historic initiative to improve child care for America's working families by helping families pay for child care, building the supply of good after-school programs, improving child care quality and promoting early learning. The President won \$182 million to improve the quality of child care for America's working families in the FY99 budget.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for Nearly 400,000 Children Each Year.

Approximately 400,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities have safe and educational after-school opportunities this year because of the expanded 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. Under the leadership of President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, funding for this initiative has increased from \$1 million to \$200 million in two years, and the Administration has proposed tripling the program this year. In his FY 2000 budget, the President proposed to increase funding to serve approximately 1.1 million students.

FIGHTING CRIME

Held the White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton hosted the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which examined laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlighted solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continued the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America. The President announced significant law enforcement and prevention initiatives to get tough on hate crimes, including: support for legislation to expand the federal hate crimes law to cover crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability; the creation of a network of local hate crime working groups; the addition of approximately 50 FBI agents and federal prosecutors to enforce hate crimes laws; improved collection of data on hate crimes; and the production of materials to educate the public -- especially youth -- about hate crimes. The President and Vice President continue to work to enact the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

Enhanced Penalties for Hate Crimes. As part of the historic 1994 Crime Act, the President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act which provides for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime.

Falling Crime Rates. Overall crime rates are down to the lowest levels in a generation --and all incomes and races are benefitting. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Victimization Survey, property and violent crime victimization rates are at their lowest levels since 1973. Between 1993-1997, decreasing victimization trends were experienced about equally for all race, sex and income groups. In addition, the murder rate is down more than 25 percent since 1993, its lowest point in 30 years. Between 1997 and 1998, the Hispanic violent victimization rate fell from 43 to 33 victimization's per 1,000 Hispanics.

Putting 100,000 New Police on the Streets and Providing COPS Grants to Underserved Areas. This year, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Administration has met its commitment of funding 100,000 police officers for our communities. As a part of the COPS Program, the President announced new grants to increase police presence and community policing in underserved neighborhoods. Under this initiative, 18 cities will share \$106 million to hire 620 new community policing officers. The pilot cities were selected following an analysis of crime, demographic and economic data.

SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Justice and Redevelopment -- issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice to ensure that low-income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. The Administration identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities, turn them into useable space, create jobs and enhance community development.

Accelerating Toxic Cleanups and Brownfields Redevelopment -- cleaned up nearly three times as many Superfund sites in six years as the previous administrations did in twelve. Leveraged nearly \$1 billion in private sector investment for Brownfields redevelopment.

Keeping Our Drinking Water Safe -- proposed and signed legislation to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water. Required America's 55,000 water utilities to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water.

Reducing the Threat of Global Warming -- negotiated an international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an environmentally strong and economically sound way. Secured \$1 billion in FY99 for research incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

Preserving Our Lands -- protected or enhanced nearly 150 million acres of public and private lands, from the red rock canyons of Utah to the Florida Everglades. Reached agreements to protect Yellowstone from mining and save the ancient redwoods of California's Headwaters Forest.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

Democracy for Cuba. The Clinton Administration increased efforts to promote a peaceful, democratic transition in Cuba by keeping pressure on the Castro government for change while reaching out to the Cuban people. The President has strengthened the international consensus on the need to promote human rights and democracy. The Clinton Administration has authorized humanitarian measures to alleviate the Cuban people's suffering, encouraged the emergence of civil society, and helped people prepare for a democratic future.

Support Our Closest Neighbors. The Administration took decisive action in assembling a financial support package for Mexico and later Brazil. In each case, the President's leadership prevented a prolonged financial crisis and its spread to other Latin American countries. In addition, the President traveled to Latin America and launched hemispheric negotiations for Free Trade Area of the Americas.

8/99



WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANIC AMERICANS

WHITE HOUSE CONVENING ON HISPANIC CHILDREN AND YOUTH
AUGUST 2, 1999

FEDERAL AGENCY EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS (selected)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

- USDA Project SOAR is a one-on-one tutoring and mentoring program for youth at risk for academic failure. The goal is to encourage students to focus their efforts on educational and personal values through extensive mentoring and academic support and positive community involvement. It targets ethnically diverse youth, with primary focus on minorities. Project SOAR activities include: Individual Mentoring; Academic Support; Skill/Asset Building; Family Community Leadership; Parent Participation; Cultural/Social Activities; After-School Enrichment; and Community Service. The target audience includes: 90% Hispanic youth and families, grades 4-6, inner city low income areas, and rural communities.
- USDA Forest Service sponsors the *Central California Consortium*, an outreach effort intended to create an awareness and interest in natural resources, natural sciences, and agricultural sciences career opportunities for Hispanic youth, starting at kindergarten level through the attainment of a degree from a four-year institution. The Consortium provides opportunities for the educational institutions involved to establish research projects that will assist the Forest Service and other USDA agencies in providing quality customer service to public. The Consortium involves the following institutions: California State University, Fresno State Center Community College District, Fresno County Office of Education, Kings Canyon School District, City of Orange Cove, Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Sierra National Forest, and the Forest Service Hispanic Employees Association. The Consortium involves three National Forests within commuting distance: Stanislaus, Sierra, and Sequoia.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- The Department of Education, lead by the Office of Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs (OIIA), has developed an Hispanic outreach plan that is dedicated to improving the educational achievement of Hispanic students through increased family involvement and community partnerships. Current efforts include the following:

--OIIA has built a variety of partnerships--including the two largest Spanish television stations, *Univision* and *Telemundo*, as well as Spanish radio PSAs--to lead a national public information campaign on the Department's initiatives and available resources.

--The Department is continuing to work to have bilingual (Spanish-English) staff at all major call centers. The Information Resource Center (1-800-USA-LEARN), Education Publications Center (1-877-4ED-PUBS) and the Federal Student Aid Information Center (1-800-4FED-AID) are able to answer calls from Spanish-speaking customers.

--The *America Reads Challenge* and *America Counts*, have developed, in partnership with the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, a variety of materials (e.g. "El Reto: ¡A leer America! A Leer Y Escribir ya!"- Read*Write*Now Activity Kits) to provide support to Spanish-speaking parents and care-givers to become more actively involved in their children's early learning.

--The National School-to-Work Office has provided funding and outreach materials to the National Council of La Raza and the Urban League to support the participation in School to Work efforts of specific youth populations and community-based organizations with expertise in serving specific types of youth, including Hispanic youth.

--The Department has produced a catalog of publications and resources available in Spanish to better serve its customers and highlight the array of materials now available to the Spanish-speaking community. The catalog serves as a resource for Spanish-speaking parents.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)

- The Department of Energy will be forming a strategic partnership with the 'Latino Science and Engineering Consortium' through a Memorandum of Understanding. The Department of Energy and the Latino Science and Engineering Consortium will work together to help prepare Hispanic American students in science and technology in order to produce a world class, diverse pool of talent throughout government and industry. The partnership provides the framework whereby the Department of Energy and its National Laboratories will identify, develop and nurture the next generation of scientists, engineers, technicians and educators in math and science. This consist of supporting mentoring programs, technical internships for community college students, research fellowships for undergraduate and graduate students and professional development opportunities in science, math and technology for K-12 teachers serving Latino children.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)

- Enacted in 1997, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) allots \$24 billion over five years for individual states to provide new health coverage for millions of uninsured children. CHIP is the largest new investment in children's health care since the creation of Medicaid in 1965. About 29% of Hispanic children in America are uninsured and HHS is making special efforts to reach Latino families and insure Hispanic children.

Efforts include:

--CHIP application is available in both Spanish and English in Florida.

--Nationally, the Univision network contributed to the production of a CHIP video to help reach the Hispanic population.

--The Office on Minority Health funds the Latino Children's Health Insurance Initiative (LCHII) which conducts training seminars within the Latino community on the availability of health insurance for low-income families, increase Latino children's enrollment in CHIP, and give the community a role in CHIP recruitment.

--New York State is working with the Children's Defense Fund, Columbia University and the community organization Alianza Dominicana to enroll Hispanic children in New York's CHIP program.

- On April 20, 1999, Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala announced a new Spanish-language childhood immunization public awareness campaign, "Vacunelo A Tiempo Todo el Tiempo" (Vaccinate Your Children On time, Every Time), to create and distribute culturally relevant and language appropriate educational materials to help raise Hispanic immunization rates to the national average. The Spanish-language public service announcement was sent to more than 60 Spanish-language television stations and 900 Spanish-language radio stations and carries toll-free numbers that provide information in Spanish.
- The Head Start program provides comprehensive developmental services to millions of low-income preschool children and their families. During the Clinton Administration, Hispanic enrollment has increased by 70,000 and at a rate nearly twice as fast as non-Hispanic enrollment.

--Since fiscal year 1992, Hispanic enrollment (excluding Puerto Rico) has increased 62% while non-Hispanic enrollment has increased 27%.

--From fiscal year 1993 to fiscal year 1999, the budget for Head Start has increased from \$2.8 billion to \$4.6 billion. Of the estimated 822,000 children who were enrolled in Head Start in 1998, 26% were of Hispanic origin.

--The Head Start Bureau seeks to address two critical areas to ensure that Head Start programming meets the growing needs of Hispanic children and families:

- 1) Ensuring that Hispanic children have fair and equitable access to Head Start services; and
 - 2) Ensuring that Head Start services meet the cultural and linguistic needs of Hispanic children and families.
- The Migrant Head Start Program provides services identical to Head Start but tailors them to the needs of migrant farmworker families. This program emphasizes serving infants, toddlers and pre-school age children so that they will not have to be cared for in the fields or left in the care of very young siblings while parents are working. Infants as young as six weeks are served. In fiscal year 1998, Migrant Head Start was funded at \$162 million serving 37,000 children. During fiscal year 1999, \$5 million more was used to reach up to 1,000 additional children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers, and the fiscal year 2000 budget includes a \$23 million increase request for Migrant Head Start that would improve quality and reach as many as 2,000 new children.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

- The *Youthbuild* program offers young adults, ranging in age from 16 to 24, the opportunity to gain leadership skills, earn a high school diploma or GED, learn a valuable trade, and provide much-needed housing to families nationwide.

More than \$170 million in grants have been made under *Youthbuild* since its inception in 1993, enabling over 7,800 young people to take part in building or rehabilitating more than 3,650 houses and apartments units in their communities. Of the 7,800 served by *Youthbuild*, an estimated 1,170 are Hispanic youth.

- *Campus of Learners* is an initiative designed to provide public housing residents with an opportunity to live in a college-like setting that is focused on learning. The initiative is part of a larger effort to transform public housing and stimulate welfare reform. Local public housing authorities raise money from private and public partners to fund the initiative. The *Campus of Learners* designation enhances the public housing authorities' (PHA) ability to set up creative partnerships with local schools, vocational centers, community colleges, universities and corporations.

The program's 25 nationwide complexes offer academic classes, job training, and computer learning and programs for adults, youth, and teens. PHAs designated for the program work closely with local school districts to develop curricula, strengthen parent-teacher relationships, establish after school activities, create educational classes, and encourage parental involvement. Campuses draw on the resources of the universities, vocational or technical institutes, and colleges through the creation of specialized education and technology classes. Finally, the business community and other private partners provide mentoring for children and adults, telecommunications resources, apprenticeship programs for youth, job training and employment opportunities for adults.

The first 25 sites were announced on September 27, 1996. A number of these housing developments serve a large proportion of Hispanic residents. For example 91.4% of the residents in East Los Angeles' Nueva Maravilla housing development, and 70% of the residents in San Diego's Vista de Valle housing development are Hispanic.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ)

- The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Juvenile Mentoring Program (JUMP) supports one-on-one mentoring programs for youth at risk of educational failure, dropping out of school, or involvement in delinquent activities, including gangs and drug abuse. JUMP brings together responsible adults and at-risk young people in need of positive role models. The program promotes personal and social responsibility as well as increased participation in elementary and secondary education while discouraging the use of illegal drugs, and firearms, involvement in violence, and other delinquent activity.

The following JUMP programs support Latino youth:

--*Latino Mentoring Program, Family Services, Inc.*, in Providence, Rhode Island, links at-risk Hispanic youth from Providence School District with mentors from the business and education community.

--*Mentor Matter* in the Washington and Union Elementary Schools in Visalia Unified School District, California. Hispanic students who attend this school live in Linnell Labor Camp, a migrant labor settlement and are at risk for poor academic achievement and juvenile crime.

--*Big Sisters* located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania serves Hispanic females ages 10-18. The program promotes self-esteem and self-confidence and highlights educational and

career opportunities in an effort to prevent teen pregnancy, school drop-outs, and delinquency.

--*The George Gervin Youth Center*, in San Antonio, Texas, serves Hispanic youth in Page Middle School and Brackenridge High School. Most of these young people live in the crime-ridden Victoria Courts where approximately 34% of youth are dropouts and teen parents. The program introduces them to work and summer jobs and attempts to motivate them to stay in school and stay away from crime.

- Weed and Seed is a community-based initiative that aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in targeted high-crime neighborhoods across the country.

The Weed and Seed strategy involves a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" criminals who participate in violent crime and drug abuse, attempting to prevent their return to the targeted area; and "seeding" brings human services to the area, encompassing prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood revitalization. A community-orientated policing component bridges weeding and seeding strategies.

At each program site, the U.S. Attorney play a central role in organizing the Steering Committee and bringing together the communities with other Weed and Seed participants. The U.S. Attorney also facilitates coordination of federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts. Through cooperation, sites can effectively use federal law in weeding strategies and mobilize resources for seed programs from a variety of federal agencies.

Currently, there are over 170 Weed and Seed sites around the nation. Below are some examples of educational programs that serve significant number of Hispanic youth.

--Phoenix, Arizona (Capitol Mall/Oakland University Park; Hispanic Population: 55%). Valley of the Sun YMCA implements a Future Leaders Project that provides neighborhood youth ages 13-17 with job training and weekend employment opportunities. This is designed to introduce teens to a work environment and work etiquette while in turn raising their aspirations. Participants receive employment training and employment certification. The Downtown Neighborhood Learning Center (DNLC) provides basic adult education (GED), English language, computer skills, and pre-employment training.

--Oxnard, California (Hispanic Population 95%). The Tezcatlipoca Project is a culturally-based college-level program providing fifty-four hours of Hispanic art and history from the Pre-Columbian era to the present day. The Alternative Weekend Program is geared towards third through eighth grade students who have disciplinary problems. Participating students must sign a contract for thirty days and must achieve perfect attendance as well as improvement in grades and skills. Barrio Productions provides training in video production. As part of the program, university students teach youngsters to write and edit scripts and produce commercials and public service announcements. Using donated material, the Build a Computer Program teaches children as young as ten the basic skills in computer construction. Students take home the build computer, and it becomes their family's property.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL)

- The Department of Labor, through the Employment and Training Administration, will provide \$1.25 billion over five years to increase long-term employment of youth aged 14-21 who live in Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities and High-Poverty areas. This initiative builds on 11 pilot projects the Department has already funded. Hispanics represent 30% of the initiative's participants. In addition, special outreach efforts are being made to recruit more Hispanic youth who may face language and cultural barriers. Each site has established a work-based learning program, integrating academic and vocation education with the private sector as partners. All youth participants are also provided with leadership training, mentoring, and soft-skill development.
- The Department also funds and operates 118 Job Corps centers across the country, providing residence and training to 65,000 disadvantaged young people. 16% of the young people served, or 10,400 youth, are Hispanic. The mission of Job Corps is to attract eligible young adults and teach them the skills they need to become employable and independent through intensive and fully supervised programs in educational and vocational training, work experience, physical rehabilitation and development, and counseling. Residential living, support services (including health care), nutritious meals, sports and recreation are provided.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

- The NASA/Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) *Proyecto Access* identifies disadvantaged middle school and high school students, most of whom are Hispanic, with the potential and interest in becoming practitioners or teachers in engineering, science, and other mathematics-related areas and reinforces them in their pursuit of these fields. The main objectives for the project are to:
 - Acquaint the students with professional career opportunities in math, science, and engineering
 - Reinforce the mathematics preparation of these students at the secondary level
 - Increase the retention rates of these students in college
 - Increase the number of competently prepared minority and female high school students from *Proyecto Access* who will ultimately pursue engineering, mathematics, or science studies in college.
- NASA has created two early childhood learning communities in South Bronx, New York. The project offers very young Latino students and their parents an opportunity to gain exposure and insight into computers. Students and their parents participate in academic enrichment and motivational activities. The Hostos Community College Learning Centers are located in the South Bronx at Hostos Children's Center and at a public school.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

- SBA's San Diego District Office (SDDO) is partnering with several organizations to teach entrepreneurship and SBA programs to inner-city youths, the majority of whom are Hispanic. As these programs prove successful, most can be expanded nationwide.

- SDDO and Junior Achievement are developing a program to teach entrepreneurship and SBA programs to inner-city K through 12 students. San Diego Junior Achievement annually involves about 13,000 students, half of whom are Hispanic. After SBA's classroom courses, students will visit SBA's Business Information Center (BIC). Hispanic students will receive special assistance by Spanish-speaking SBA staff and online resources translated into Spanish, including the Small Business Classroom, Online Women's Business Center, and classes on business plans, etc. Much of Junior Achievement training material is offered in Spanish. SDDO will judge student business plans.
- SDDO and Millennium Entrepreneurs are developing a program to teach "ABCs of Small Business" and "How SBA can assist Young Entrepreneurs" to high school students, 70% of whom are Hispanic. Millennium Entrepreneurs is a kids business camp, founded by African American Tonja McCoy using SDDO's BIC to put her dream into reality. Tonja is expanding Millennium throughout San Diego, Hawaii, and the East Coast. Camps last three weeks during summer and Christmas breaks, and will expand to fall and spring after school. After SBA's camp classes, students will visit SBA's BIC. Spanish-speaking SBA Staff will assist the Hispanic students. SBA will offer Hispanic students online resources translated into Spanish, including the Small Business Classroom and the Online Women's Business Center. All of Millennium's material is available in Spanish.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

- The National Museum of American Art (NMAA) has created *¡del Corazon!*, (<http://nmaar-yder.si.edu/webzine/>), an interactive webzine featuring Latino art from their collection. The on-line magazine provides curricular activities developed by and responsive to the needs of the K-12 learning community. *¡del Corazon!* is a collaborative effort between participating schools and museum staff to create an engaged learning tool using technology and Smithsonian primary source materials. The NMAA collection includes important works that not only represent the diversity of Latino art, but reflects the historical contributions of Latinos to our society.

WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANIC AMERICANS

- *Excelencia en Educación: The Role of Parents in the Education of Their Children*, is a series of conference sponsored by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. The academic emphasis of the conferences is mathematics, reading, and college readiness and the focus is on powerful strategies for parents to more fully engage in supporting their children's education. The conferences cover how schools, teachers, civic leaders, community-based organizations, business and federal agencies can reach out to parents and more fully engage them in their children's education. By sharing "promising practices" and educational information, conference participants improve strategies to brighten the future of young Hispanics and prepare to serve as catalysts for enhancing parental involvement throughout the nation.
- The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans created the Inter-Departmental Council on Hispanic Educational Improvement (IDC) to assist the federal government in its efforts to evaluate the impact of Hispanic outreach programs and determine the most effective strategies that will increase the educational and employment opportunities for Latinos. The IDC, comprised of deputy and assistant secretaries, is the primary mechanism that can catalyze substantial change in the federal government's

provision of educational and employment opportunities for the Latino community. IDC members share the responsibility of ensuring their agencies make the necessary programmatic, management, and budgetary adjustments to address the educational challenges facing the Latino community.



MACSA

ESTHER MEDINA
Executive Director

**MEXICAN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY, INC.**
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1964 - 1999

35 Years of Community Service

MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY, INC.

August 18, 1999

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Pacific Gas & Electric

Vice President
Robert Gonzales
San José Unified School District

Treasurer
Susan Meyers, Ph.D.
San José State University

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Housing Authority of Santa Clara County

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Optometrist

Executive Director
Esther Medina

Capricia Penavic Marshall
East Wing, Suite 200
Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20502

Dear Ms. Marshall,

Thank you for your recent invitation to attend the Conference on Hispanic Children and Youth, on August 2, 1999, sponsored by First Lady Hilary Clinton. Unfortunately, due to financial constraints we were not able to send a representative from our organization, the Mexican American Community Services Agency, MACSA. However, I would like to share some concerns that we have in addressing the challenges Hispanic youth of our community face. Since 1964 it has been our mission to enrich and advance the interest of the Latino community of Santa Clara County. MACSA provides a number of comprehensive services to the Latino community. MACSA strategically locates programs in high-risk communities that lack positive alternatives to teen pregnancy, gang activity, violence, academic failure/school attrition, juvenile delinquency, and substance abuse. MACSA provides a continuum of services from prevention, intervention, to after care in four Santa Clara County communities (San José, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and Alviso). Annually, MACSA serves approximately 15,000 people with an average of 45,750 units of service (one unit of services equal one hours of service or program, i.e. counseling, tutoring, workshops, etc.).

To expand our scope of services, MACSA has pursued the construction of an office building, low-income housing, and a multi-service youth center. In 1993 the agency built a 20,000 square foot facility that today houses an Adult Day Health Care Center and Administrative office. In 1994 the agency constructed a 42-unit low-income senior housing project and recently completed construction on another 60-unit complex. In 1994 the agency built a 25,000 square foot youth center in East San José that today stands as a monument to what a community can accomplish through vision, heart, and hard work.

Reply to:

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In its commitment to ensure services are accessible and serving disadvantaged communities, MACSA has branched out to 12 sites throughout Santa Clara County, which provide a continuum of services from prevention, intervention to after care for youth, families, and seniors. The following highlights key programs and services available:

youth pre-employment training • youth employment placement • academic assistance
recreational activities • parenting classes • alternative/continuation high school
computer literacy • homeless youth assistance • gang prevention/intervention services • subsidized
childcare • mobile gang outreach services • youth retreats • arts & crafts
AIDS/HIV education • male responsibility program • family support services
dance instruction • adult day health center • lead poisoning education • referrals

Challenges Impacting Latino Youth

In our years of serving the Latino community we have witnessed first hand the limited opportunities for our young Latino population to advance and prosper. Although, overall Santa Clara County residents experience a high quality of life and enjoy prosperity there are subgroups within the population that do not share in the wealth.¹ Low-income and Latino families, in particular are those most disenfranchised. Lamentably, in Santa Clara County poverty is highly concentrated geographically and ethnically.

Three-fourths of children living below the poverty line live in 30% of the county's Census tracts, primarily in downtown/East San Jose and Gilroy.² The population of these areas are predominantly Latino, 73% and 55% respectively. The consequences of poverty impairs the future and well-being of children whose socioeconomic condition places them at greater risk of:

- Low birth weight, a predictor of developmental problems in childhood and school failure.
- Likelihood of encountering lead poisoning, violent crime, and academic failure.
- Dropping out of school, teen pregnancy, violence, domestic abuse, substance abuse, sexual abuse, and chronic illness.
- Substandard and inadequate housing; multiple families must often share a single dwelling in order to make ends meet.

(Source: Greater Expectations for California's Neediest Students: A Call to Action, California Superintendents Council on Language, Culture, Poverty, and Race, June 1999)

Unfortunately, our young Latino population is most often the victim of these socioeconomic disparities. Children who grow up in poverty face significant obstacles in becoming contributing members of society, due to poor nutrition, poor access to preventive health care, increased risk of dropping out or falling behind in school, and increase risk of teen pregnancy.³ In its recent report, *Latino Education: Status and Prospect*, the National Council de La Raza maintained that while many other factors are involved, the single most important predictor of economic opportunity and poverty status in this society is educational attainment. It is very clear by local and state data that Latino youth are struggling to succeed academically both at the primary and secondary level, which consequently decreases their chances of obtaining a college degree. In order to enhance the educational experience among Santa Clara County's Latino youth, the following challenges should be addressed:

¹ Source: *Community Assessment-Health & Quality of Life in Santa Clara County*, Professional Research Consultants, 1998

² Source: *Trends Report: An Assessment of Health & Human Services in Santa Clara County*, United Way of Santa Clara County, July 1997

³ Source: *Joint Venture's Index of Silicon Valley 1996, Measuring Progress toward a 21st Century Community*, Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network, 1996

- **31%** of the k-12 enrollment in Santa Clara County school districts are Latino. In some districts, the Latino student enrollment is 50-70%. The state average is 40%.
- **54%** of the reported high school drop out rates are Latino students, compared to state average of 30%.
- **Only 9%** of certificated teachers/administrators are Latino, although the Latino student population is 31%.
- **Only 14%** of Latino students (compared to 43% of other students) meet college preparatory coursework needed for entrance into the state university school system.
- **6%** of college-bound Latino high school graduates entered the California State University system, and 3% entered the University of California system, compared to 10-12% for other students.
- In California of the 76,000 Latinos high school graduates in 1995, **only 3.5% (2,700)** enrolled in the University of California system.

(Source: Greater Expectations for California's Neediest Students: A Call to Action, California Superintendents' Council on Language, Culture, Poverty, and Race, June 1999)

Due to the poor academic preparation and limited educational attainment among Latino, many of them are relegated to work in low skilled, and minimum wage positions, which offer little opportunity for job growth or upward mobility.⁴ This in turn forces many Latinos to live in low-income neighborhoods which increases the likelihood of their children having an inferior educational experience and forced to pursue to low-paying jobs. This is a cyclical issue that continues to hinder Latinos from generation to generation.

In addition to creating a large disenfranchised and lower class population, the limited educational attainment among Latinos also results in other social adversities: teenage pregnancy, alcoholism, drug abuse, gang involvement, and violence. California has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the nation; 64 girls out of 1,000 become pregnant. In Santa Clara County the teen birth rate for females age 15-19 is 49.3 per 1,000, lower than the state average. However, in 1995, among Latina teens, in the same age group, they experienced a higher rate of pregnancy, 114 per 1,000.⁵ Most recent data collected from the Department's Office of Applied Research and Policy Analysis showed that **63% of Latina youth (under the age of 18) were teenage mothers, an alarming high rate when compared to 19% among their white counterpart.**⁶ Not surprisingly, becoming pregnant at a young age perpetuates low levels of educational attainment and poverty.

There is a great deal of research that indicates many Latino youth, in particular, are at-risk for alcoholism, gang involvement, and violence because of their limited educational attainment and low socioeconomic status. In a recent Santa Clara County study the following data was collected which affirms the crises state of our Latino youth,

- 39.5% of high students had had alcohol during a given month
- 51.5% of middle school students have tried alcohol.
- 22.9% of high students reported binge drinking in a given month.
- Hispanic males between 15-34 years of age have the highest rate of homicide, 20.9 per 100,000, compared to White 5.5 per 100,000.

⁴ Source: *Latino Education: Status and Prospects, State of Hispanic America 1999*, National Council de La Raza, July 1998.

⁵ Source: *Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention in Santa Clara County: Current Efforts Statistics, and Future Opportunities*, Santa Clara County Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Network, 1997.

⁶ Source: *Latina Mentoring: Request for Proposal*, State of California Health and Human Services Agency, June 1999.

- 54% of juvenile probation cases are concentrated in low-income neighborhoods of the county, with largely Latino population
- 50.9% (2,645) of Juvenile Hall admits are Latino, compared to 24.8% of Whites. (In 1994 the Latino youth population, under the age of 20, was 21.7%.)
- 795 youth involved in gang activity, 72% are Hispanic; compared to 10% of Asians.

Sources: *Community Assessment-Health & Quality of Life in Santa Clara County*, Professional Research Consultants, 1998 and Santa Clara County Juvenile Probation Department Annual Report, 1996-1997)

Solutions

In order to provide Latino youth a greater opportunity to flourish and prosper it is imperative to provide sound solutions that are proven to be effective. However, it is important that funding be allocated both at a national and state level to ensure that public entities and community based organizations have sufficient resources to collaboratively address those challenges most impairing our Latino youth. In addition to making more funding available for educational and social services it is just as important that that these monies be available long-term. Services are only effective when they are provided for an extended amount of time, short-term funding does not allow an organization sufficient time to have a profound impact on the population it serves. It is well documented that the most effective response to academic difficulty, juvenile delinquency, alcohol usage, and premature sexual activity incorporates prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies.

“Those with vision have come to recognize that the long-term health of our society depends on a new approach to community-building, one with an increased emphasis on prevention, community involvement, and collaboration. . . . Families and child who experience multiple risk factors such as poverty, alcohol and drug abuse, physical and mental health disorders, family violence, neighborhood violence, learning disorders, and past criminal activities require early comprehensive and integrated services.”

In 35 years of providing services to high-risk Latino youth in Santa Clara County, MACSA's service delivery approach is a testament to the effectiveness and value of providing comprehensive, and culturally competent services that address the myriad needs of youth, families, and seniors. Throughout Santa Clara County, MACSA has positively impacted the lives of many Latino youth through its various educational and recreational programs. These services place a great emphasis on academic success, cultural pride, civic responsibility, self-esteem, community involvement, and self-sufficiency. However, the availability of funding often restricts the number of youth and services that MACSA, and many other public entities and social services, can provide. With additional funding allocated to the following areas we will certainly see positive outcomes taking place in the Latino community:

- **YOUTH EMPLOYMENT:** Over the last five years, the federal government has ceased funding (approximately 50%) for the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). As a result, the MACSA Youth Employment Program services were cut in half. There are very few resources in the community for youth to learn valuable skills in acquiring and maintaining a job. As a result, many youth are given less and less opportunities to learn valuable marketable skills.
- **TEEN PREGNANCY:** On April 29, 1999, Vice president Al Gore announced in a press conference that in the last 10 years, teen pregnancy has declined by 16%. However, Latino teen births have

¹ Source: *Violence Prevention: A Vision of Hope, Final Report*, Attorney General Daniel Lundgren, Policy Council on Violence Prevention, August 1995

increased up to 20% in some counties. As a nation, we are failing educate Latinos on the importance of celibacy, sexual responsibility, and contraception. The Federal government should invest more funding to teen pregnancy prevention and education programs.

- **HIV/AIDS:** In Santa Clara County, as across the nation, each year the number of HIV/AIDS related cases among Latinos continues to grow, surpassing many other populations. More funds should be allocated to provide HIV/AIDS education, treatment, and screening for Latinos. Also, a stronger emphasis needs to be placed on educating monolingual, migrant farm workers. This population is often neglected and deprived of HIV/AIDS related services and information. MACSA provides one of the few programs that are designed to outreach to migrant, monolingual Spanish speaking community.
- **LEAD POISONING:** In Santa Clara County, there are many Latinos living in older homes, which have high levels of lead-paint. If undetected and untreated lead-paint poisoning can impair the health and well-being of children. Lead-paint poisoning has been linked to mental and physical illnesses. By allocating more funding to lead-paint poisoning prevention/education programs, families can learn to test for lead-paint in their home, and to detect and treat lead-paint poisoning in their children.
- **GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMS:** Studies indicate that the most effective strategies to curtail gang involvement are to provide prevention and intervention services that address those factors that compel youth to become involved in such activity. Gang involvement and other juvenile delinquency is often a symptom of deep-rooted problems. Gang prevention and intervention programs are successful when they address the mental and physical health of youth. Once these areas are addressed youth need additional services that promote academic success, self-worth, civic responsibility, community pride, and self-sufficiency. Therefore, it is imperative that funding be allocated to schools, community based organizations, and mental health/health services to identify children that are at risk of academic failure, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, domestic violence, gang involvement, and child abuse/neglect. By expanding gang prevention and intervention services we can ensure a larger number of youth do not end up in our prison system.
- **AFTER CARE FOR FORMER INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS:** There are few programs in Santa Clara County that provide educational and support services for individuals newly released from prison. Given the lack of support services many former inmates receive upon their release from prison, it is not surprising that many of them return to prison within a year of their release. It is not uncommon for former inmates to return to the delinquent activities that got them in prison. Many former inmates lack the education and employment skills to become self-sufficient, and a contributing member of society. With additional funding from the government, after care services can be provided to ensure newly released inmates receive; employment training, job placement, mental health services, counseling (substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse), support groups, health services, tattoo removal services, food and shelter assistance, parent education classes, and life skills training.
- **ACADEMIC PREPARENESS/SUPPORT SERVICES:** A large percentage of Latino youth fail to receive a high school diploma and pursue higher education. Many Latino youth, in particular, that demonstrate academic difficulty or exhibit negative behavior are often not identified as having

learning disabilities, language difficulty, physical disability or mental illness. School districts with disproportionate rates of academic failure and school drop-outs, and with minimal rates of college matriculation should receive additional funding to provide academic preparedness and support services; tutoring, literacy programs, college preparatory classes, internships, disability assessment/services, college/career exploration, and guidance counseling. These programs are instrumental in ensuring youth identified at risk of academic failure receive academic enrichment services that will assist them in developing the skills to fulfill both a high school diploma and college entrance requirements.

- **PARENTAL SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT:** Many low-income and ethnic parents receive very little support services from their children's schools and social service agencies in identifying and addressing their needs. Many of these parents because of their limited education and language barriers are often not aware of resources in the community that can enhance their quality of life. Additional funding should be allocated to school district and social service providers to offer parent education classes, advocacy services, support groups, personal development training, etc.
- **CULTURALLY BASED AND GENDER SENSITIVE SERVICES:** Many mental health providers lack the resources and training to provide culturally based and gender sensitive services. In Santa Clara County that there are few mental health providers that are skilled in serving the Latino community, and in particular males. Latino males are in great need of mental health services that are sensitive to their cultural norms and practices. To ensure mental health providers are capable of serving diverse population, additional funding should be allocated to provide mental health providers culturally-based training and resources.
- **NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CENTERS:** Since 1994 MACSA has operated a 25,000 sq. ft. multi-service youth center, MACSA East San Jose Youth, that offers a multitude of comprehensive programs from prevention, intervention, to after care (i.e. recreational activities, counseling, day care, health services, employment training/placement, parent supports groups, etc.). The youth center was strategically located in one of most disadvantaged areas of Santa Clara County, that experienced a disproportionate rate of teen pregnancy, gang activity, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, violence, poverty, and academic failure. Throughout the week, weeknights, and weekends, MACSA offers educational and recreational activities for youth and families that are language and culture sensitive. All youth center services are designed to curtail gang involvement, violence, and juvenile delinquency, foster academic success, reduce teenage pregnancy, promote civic and personal responsibility, instill hope, and decrease poverty. The MACSA East San Jose Youth Center has been instrumental in enhancing the quality of life of its surrounding community, and empowering youth and families to live health and happy lives. It is because of this experience that we encourage federal and state funds be allocated to community based organizations to provide multi-service youth centers in high-risk and disadvantaged communities.
- **EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES:** Given the limited resources of school districts and community based organizations, in particular those serving low-income communities, there few if any educational and recreational activities offered after school for children and youth. Organized after school activities are proven to be effective in curtailing juvenile delinquency, and enhancing academic success. Children who regularly participate in after school activities (i.e. sports, music, tutoring, mentoring) are less likely to become incarcerated, involved in gangs, use drugs and

alcohol, and engage in premature sexual activity. With additional funding from both the federal and national level educational and recreational activities can be offered in low-income, disadvantaged communities to provide youth alternatives to gang involvement, juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, and academic failure.

- **SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES:** To address the disproportionate rates of alcohol and drug abuse in low-income, Latino communities, greater emphasis should be placed on providing affordable and accessible substance abuse counseling and rehabilitation services. With additional federal and state funding, community based organizations and public entities can provide more substance abuse counseling and rehabilitative services that are affordable, accessible, and language and culture sensitive.
- **HOMELESS YOUTH SERVICES:** In Santa Clara County, and in other urban communities throughout the country, we are encountering a greater number of homeless youth due to the high cost of housing, unemployment, limited education, substance abuse, and child abuse/neglect. Funding should be allocated to support homeless youth programs that provide shelter, employment training, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and employment training to ensure youth become self-sufficient and independent individuals.
- **EMPLOYER INCENTIVE/EMPLOYMENT SERVICES:** A large number of Latino youth lack marketable skills thereby reducing their opportunity for economic mobility. To ensure youth gain employable skills greater emphasis needs to be placed on providing effective employment training/placement and on-the-job training/internships. Through collaborative efforts with businesses and additional funding youth can receive employment skills training and be guaranteed employment placement with participating employers.
- **SUBSIDIZED HOUSING/FIRST TIME BUYER PROGRAMS:** Santa Clara County has one of the most expensive housing market in the country. Thus, many low-income Latino working families are unable to provide adequate housing for their children, and much less qualify to purchase their own home. Seniors are also experience difficulty in obtaining decent housing given their limited income. Additional funds should be allocated to provide subsidized housing programs to assist low-income families and seniors. Also, more first time homebuyer programs should be offered to ensure more low-income families can realize their dream of purchasing their own home.
- **CHILD ABUSE/FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SERVICES:** A large number of Latino children and families experience child abuse and violence which if not treated can be physically and mentally injurious. Substantial funding should be allocated to community based organizations and public entities to provide educational programs to assist parents in developing health life skills, discipline, conflict resolution, anger management, communication, and stress management. Also, services should be provide to train parents, educators, and social service providers to identify child abuse and domestic violence, and to take an active role in referring victims of such crime. In addition affordable, accessible child abuse and domestic violence treatment services are needed to help children and families heal their mental and physical wounds. It is imperative that the prevention and intervention services be language and culture sensitive to ensure those most in need have access to them.

- **CHILDCARE SERVICES:** In Santa Clara County, and throughout the country, there are limited childcare services that are affordable and reliable. Because of the high cost of child care services many low-income working parents are compelled to leave their children unattended or with friends and relatives with minimal child care experience. This is of great concern, in particular during the summer months when children are left unsupervised or improperly cared for extended amount of time, while their parents work. Thus, increased federal and state funding should be allocated to community-based organizations and public entities to provide affordable childcare.
- **HEALTHY FAMILIES INSURANCE:** California recently introduced Healthy Families Insurance for low-income, working families. Unfortunately, the program has not been successful in enrolling the target population. This can be attributed to poor outreach efforts and to the difficulty of the application process. In order for Healthy Families Insurance to effectively enroll qualifying families it is essential that outreach efforts be improved and that the application process be streamlined.

In order to enhance the quality of life of youth and their families, it is important that your office make every effort to advocate on behalf of the Latino community to ensure that at least those areas that focus on health, poverty, teen pregnancy, crime, and academic failure are given precedence for action. If we continue to stand idly by while the socioeconomic situation of our Latino community worsens, it will not be a disservice to the entire community, but to our Latino children, who will assume a large percentage of our adult population in the 21st century.

We appreciate the time you have given social services providers, with experience in serving Latino youth, to voice their concerns. We always welcome the opportunity to share our experience and knowledge of serving disadvantaged and high-risk Latino youth and families. If you are ever in the area we invite you to visit our MACSA East San Jose Youth Center, which provides coordinated and comprehensive services that are also language and culture sensitive. Our services are making a difference in the lives of our youth and families. Should you need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me at (408) 928-1122. Again, thank you for your time.

In Community Spirit,


 Esther Medina,
 Executive Director

MACSA MISSION

It is the mission of the Mexican American Community Services Agency, Inc. (MACSA) to identify the social, economic, health and educational needs of the Latino community of Santa Clara County, and to provide services that address those needs.

Founded in 1964, as a non-profit organization, MACSA has historically been one of the leading providers of services to Latino youth, families, and seniors in Santa Clara County.

AGENCY OBJECTIVES

- To provide social service programs to the Latino community in the areas of health, family preservation, housing, employment, education, and other human services.
- To draw attention to institutional policies, practices and conditions that affect the lives and well being of Latinos.
- To monitor and evaluate policy and programs and to affect positive change in the Latino community.
- To collaborate with the leadership of Santa Clara County, and other agencies, in activities that increase the presence and expression of the Latino perspective, and access to direct services.
- To build an economic base through community development projects.

MACSA FACILITIES/SITES

MACSA Administration

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Adult Day Health Center

130 N. Jackson Avenue
San Jose, CA 95116
(408) 928-1155

MACSA East San Jose Youth Center

660 Sinclair Drive
San Jose, CA 95116
(408) 929-1080

Alviso Youth Center

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Alviso, CA 95002
(408) 942-6633

MACSA El Toro Youth Center

17620 Crest Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
(408) 779-6002

Gilroy Community Youth Center

7400 Railroad Street
Gilroy, CA 95020
(408) 847-4686

San Ysidro Youth Center

451 Lewis Street
Gilroy, CA 95020
(408) 847-2425

Updated 8/8/98:LPB



"Building The Future,
One Kid At A Time"

MACSA·MACSA·MACSA·MACSA

You A Can Make A Difference.....
If interested in learning more about MACSA please complete and return form.

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I want to help by:

- ☐ Enclosing my check for the amount of \$ _____
☐ Volunteering-Please call me about volunteer opportunities.
☐ To be included in the MACSA mailing list.

(Please enclose in envelope and mail)

YESTERDAY

In 1964, a group of East San Jose citizens came together to address the problems and injustices facing the Latino community. As a result, they set out to build an institution that would develop local leadership, unify efforts of existing groups, and address the critical problems facing the community. Problems not limited to widespread poverty, unemployment, discrimination, limited access to public services, and youth violence.

Soon after its inception, MACSA led successful statewide efforts to end employment discrimination, improve bilingual services at the California Department of Motor Vehicles, and end police brutality.

TODAY

Today, the Latino community of Santa Clara County is better organized than it was thirty-four years ago. The community has made important advances in education, employment rights, and political empowerment. However, in spite of these advances, a walk through any barrio suggest that many old difficulties persist and new ones emerged with the continuing transformation of the region's economy and demographics. These changes continuously challenge MACSA to meet the emerging needs of our communities.

FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAMS

- ♦ **Male Involvement Program**-Funded by the State Office of Family Planning, this program educates "out of mainstream" young men of the consequences of teen pregnancy on themselves, their child, and their community.
- ♦ **Familia Sana**-Funded by the State Department of Health, this project provides a holistic approach to preventing unplanned pregnancies and fatherlessness by providing pre-sexually and sexually active adolescents, pregnant and parent teens, their parents and extended families with comprehensive education, and prevention and intervention services in the community of Gilroy.
- ♦ **Mothers and Sons Program**-Assist female heads of households in raising their sons by focusing on family responsibility and community involvement through:group counseling, parenting classes, in home support services, rap groups, and social outings.
- ♦ **The Village Project**-Patterned after the African proverb "It Takes a Whole Village to Raise a Child", this program provides youth and families multitude of services that promote academic achievement, self-esteem, positive relationships and wellness.

SENIOR SERVICES

- ♦ **CASA MACSA**-This is a licensed, bicultural and bilingual, adult day health care program serving the frail and elderly adult population with nursing care; physical, occupational, and speech therapy; social and nutrition services; and transportation. Seniors are transported daily to the center where they enjoy specially designed social and recreational activities, therapy, medical services, and a hot nutritional lunch.
- ♦ **Jardines Paloma Blanca**-This is a 42 unit affordable senior housing complex located next to Casa MACSA. The building includes a community room, TV/reading room, workshop room, hair salon, lounge, library, and computer lab.
- ♦ **Gira Sol**-This is a 60-unit affordable senior housing complex is situated in the future site, of the Mexican Heritage Plaza and Gardens in East San Jose. The building includes a community room, TV/reading room, lounge, and library.

Many programs and services are also available for Youth and Young Adults. To learn more about MACSA Youth Programs in your area please call (408) 928-1122

Business Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

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1565 Liberty Avenue
Alviso, CA 95002
(408) 942-6633

MACSA El Toro Youth Center

17620 Crest Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
(408) 779-6002

Gilroy Community Youth Center

7400 Railroad Street
Gilroy, CA 95020
(408) 846-4686

San Ysidro Youth Center

451 Lewis Street
Gilroy, CA 95020
(408) 847-2425

Updated 8/8/98:LPB



"Building The Future,
One Kid At A Time"

MACSA·MACSA·MACSA·MACSA

You Can Make A Difference.....
If interested in learning more about MACSA please complete and return form.

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I want to help by:

- ☐ Enclosing my check for the amount of \$ _____
☐ Volunteering-Please call me about volunteer opportunities
☐ To be included in the MACSA mailing list.

(Please enclose in envelope and mail)

GANG INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

- ♦ **Street Reach**-Experienced gang outreach workers enter communities to encourage gang involved youth to change their life style by providing positive alternative activities.
- ♦ **New Image**-A 14-week intervention program that prepares youth to leave their gangs and change their lifestyle. Youth develop self-esteem and individual accountability through activities that focus on conflict resolution, anger management, goal setting, and social skills.
- ♦ **Las Hermanitas (Little Sisters)**-In partnership with Junior League of San Jose, this program assist junior high girls in resisiting peer pressure by developing their skills in the areas of academic enrichment, goal setting, communication, and conflict resolution.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

- ♦ **Project Independance/Youth Employment Program**-Provides youth/young adults between the ages of 16-25 with pre-employment training, personal life skills development, obtainment of GED/high school diploma, vocational training referral, guidance counseling, support services, and employment placement.
- ♦ **Project Crossroads**-Provides teen parents between the ages of 16-21 with assistance in school enrollment, obtainment of GED/high school diploma, support services, parenting workshops, guidance counseling, vocational training referral, and employment placement.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

- ♦ **Computer Literacy**-Provides youth with basic computer skills instruction, library skills, academic enrichment, transcultural appreciation, and social development.
- ♦ **Arts and Crafts**-This program is designed to develop the artistic and creative skills of youth through art projects, exhibits, and career counseling, and educational presentations/workshops.
- ♦ **Latchkey Day Care**-This State licensed program serves children from low-income, working parent families. Children recieve quality care, tutoring, homework assistance, self-esteem enhancement, life skills training, and recreational and educational workshops.
- ♦ **Zero Drop Out Youth Academy**-Provides youth with activities that foster academic success and personal development through; basic skills review, transcultural awareness, social skills training, and gang and drug prevention education.

YOUTH DEVLOPMENT PROGRAMS

- ♦ **The Homeless Youth Connection**-In partnership with the Center for Employment Training (C.E.T) and Catholic Charities, this program provides homeless youth between the ages of 17 and 21 with housing, vocational skills training, employment placement, and support services.
- ♦ **Academia Calmecac**-Named after the *University of the Aztecs*, this alternative high school offers youth between the ages of 14 and 18 an opportunity to complete their education and fulfill their long-term goals.
- ♦ **Recreational Activities/Organized Sports**-Provides youth game room activities, arts and crafts, organized sports, fieldtrips, and various educational events aimed at enhancing their personal development, academic achievement, self-esteem, and cultural awareness.
- ♦ **MACSA Teen Youth Annual Retreat**-This two-day retreat provides high-risk youth with leadership and self-development skills through team building workshops and educational activities.
- ♦ **Giving Back**-Provides former gang-involved girls the opportunity to give back to their community through community and neighborhood beautification projects.

YESTERDAY

In 1964, a group of East San Jose citizens came together to address the problems and injustices facing their Latino community. As a result, they set out to build an institution that would develop local leadership, unify efforts of existing groups, and address the critical problems in the community. Problems not limited to widespread poverty, unemployment, discrimination, limited access to public services, and youth violence.

Soon after its inception, MACSA led successful statewide efforts to end employment discrimination, improve bilingual services at the California Department of Motor Vehicles, and end police brutality.

TODAY

Today, the Latino community of Santa Clara County is better organized than it was thirty-four years ago. The community has made important advances in education, employment rights, and political empowerment. However, in spite of these advances, a walk through any barrio suggests that many old difficulties persist and new ones emerged with the continuing transformation of the region's economy and demographics. It is these changes that continuously challenge MACSA to meet the emerging needs of our communities.