



Newsletter  
January – March 2010

# Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs



## CENSUS, CENSUS, CENSUS!



We are now just days away from Census Day, April 1, 2010. The past three months have been a whirlwind of events to ensure that DC's Latino community is educated about the need to take part in this important initiative. OLA has been presenting Census information to parents at schools, to front-line staff at non-profit organizations and to many, many more at special Census events. In the past few weeks some of the

activities included being part of a panel that addressed members of the philanthropic and funding community, a gathering of community groups in Columbia Heights and the taping and launch of a Spanish language Census video. Even though April 1 is Census Day, the push to get everyone to complete the census form will continue through the following months. Receiving our fair share of federal funds is more important than ever as funding for needed services has decreased from other sources in a time when the need is growing. Be sure to spread the message, when you give ten minutes to fill out the form, you give thousands of dollars to your community.

## GRANTEE SITE VISITS

As part of the District government's renewed focus city-wide efficient and uniform grant making policies and procedures, OLA has recently added a more robust monitoring and compliance component to its existing grants management program. These changes are intended to increase our capacity to effectively monitor the overall financial and programmatic health of our community-based partners in order to proactively identify issues, recommend solutions and provide tailored technical assistance if needed.

OLA has launched a new initiative that consists of site visits to each of our grantees conducted by our monitoring team. A "Grant Oversight Checklist" is provided to grantees that outlines the documents and issues grantees are asked to provide and discuss during the site visit. The site visits provide OLA an opportunity to review the progress made on the organizations work plan, expenses, and discuss any and all issues related to the grant and the overall health of the organization. A report of the site visit is shared with the organization. Site visits not only allow OLA to conduct oversight of grant funds but it gives us an opportunity to see first-hand the needs of the community and the great work the network of DC non-profits are doing to provide much needed services to address these needs.



Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs  
2000 14<sup>th</sup> St., NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20009  
202-671-2825  
[www.ola.dc.gov](http://www.ola.dc.gov)

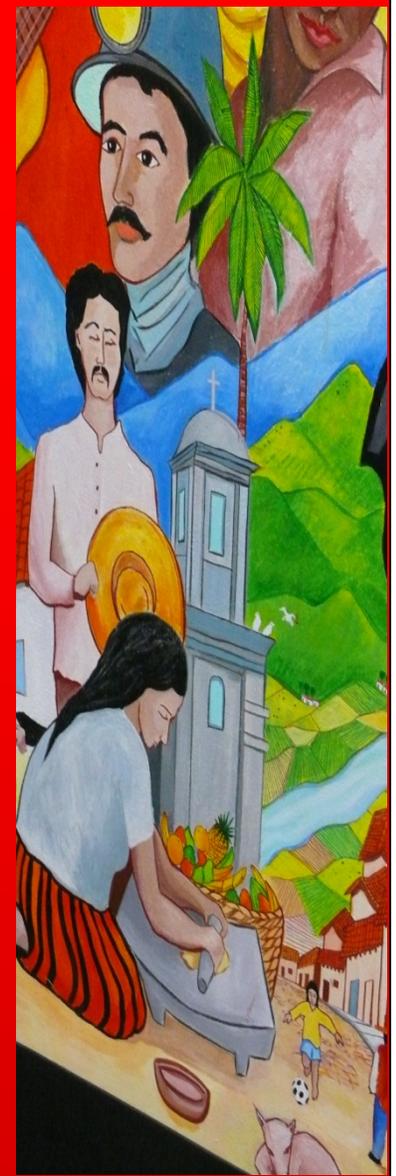
## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOPS

In March OLA partnered with the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA), the Metropolitan Police Department's Latino Liaison Unit, DC Department of Human Services, DC Department of Health, and Serve DC to kickoff HSEMA's community preparedness exercises for DC Latino residents. Two Emergency Preparedness Workshops were held to educate and inform the community about ways to prepare their families for emergency situations. The Emergency Preparedness Seminars were held on March 18th at the SED Center on Kansas Ave in Ward 4 and on March 20<sup>th</sup> at All Souls Church on 16th Street in Ward 1. The emergency exercises were intended to target the two different Wards in the city with the largest Latino population.

The emergency preparedness exercises provided participants with basic emergency preparedness terminology such as "shelter-in place" and "evacuation," as well as offering information on available resources and tools useful in family preparedness and in cases of accidents, disasters, or catastrophes. Participants received emergency information from several agencies present, such as the DC Water and Sewer Authority (DCWASA), Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT). Participants received information on Language Access and guidance as to how to obtain information in their own language. Participants also learned how to put together an emergency kit and have it ready in case of an emergency, disaster, or a catastrophe, and were giving emergency kits to take home. The two different exercises were well attended, and a diverse group of Latino residents was represented.

## SMALL BUSINESS ADVICE CLINIC

OLA reached out to small business in March with the help of the Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) and the DC Bar Pro Bono Program and offered a small business clinic that allowed business owners to receive information about forming a business, contracts, leases and taxes among other business related issues. Business owners were able to meet one-on-one with attorneys to receive assistance.



Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs  
2000 14<sup>th</sup> St., NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20009  
202-671-2858  
[www.ola.dc.gov](http://www.ola.dc.gov)

### Staff:

Mercedes Lemp, Director  
George Escobar, Deputy Director  
Susana Lopez, Office Manager  
Cecilia Castillo, Language Access  
and Advocacy Coordinator  
Ezequiel Williams, Grants  
Manager

### Outreach staff:

Didier Sinisterra  
MariaRosa Jimenez  
Ingrid Gutierrez  
Kathy Ramirez  
Karla Fuentes