



NEWS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L.
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**REP. SOLIS ANNOUNCES \$850,000 IN GRANTS FOR SUBSTANCE
ABUSE AND HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS**

WASHINGTON, D.C – U.S. Representative Hilda L. Solis announced today that Bienvenidos Children’s Center will receive two grants totaling \$850,000 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to expand their substance abuse treatment and HIV/AIDS services.

“With the health care crisis Los Angeles County is experiencing, I am pleased that I was able to help provide funding for Bienvenidos,” said Rep. Solis. “Their highly successful substance abuse treatment and HIV/AIDS project continues to provide essential services to Los Angeles County residents who might otherwise slip through the social services safety net. These grants will help to support these efforts and improve the partnership the project has with other HIV/AIDS service providers in the Los Angeles area,” Solis said.

The two grants are:

- \$350,000 for the Minority Substance Abuse/HIV Prevention Program and
- \$500,000 to expand and enhance recovery and HIV/AIDS treatment services

With the grant, Bienvenidos will be able to expand and enhance services for Latinas, their children and their families who are in need of substance abuse treatment. In 1998, statistics showed that Latinos represented the largest racial/ethnic groups of persons with AIDS diagnosed (42%) in the County. In addition, the East and Southeast Los Angeles community has one of the highest incidences of substance abuse in Los Angeles County and a growing problem of HIV/AIDS among Latinas. Unfortunately, substance abuse treatment and HIV/AIDS related resources specifically targeting Latinas are extremely limited in this area.

“We are very thankful to U.S. Representative Solis for supporting our substance abuse treatment and HIV/AIDS-related services,” said Barbara Kappos, Director of Bienvenidos Family Services. “This additional funding will allow us to help a community that has been underserved for too long,” she added.

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