



Working Together
For A Stronger, Golden America:
Our Challenges. Our Future. Our Vote.

About the Empowerment & Civic Engagement Training

Sunday, September 18 & Monday, September 19, 2011 - L'Enfant Plaza Hotel

Developing leadership and fostering civic engagement in the Hispanic community is one of the most important activities NHCOA undertakes. Through leadership and civic engagement, the voices of Hispanic older adults and their families, are heard on a local, state, and federal level.

The Empowerment and Civic Engagement Training is a two-training for grassroots leaders, including *promotores de salud*, outreach workers, and volunteers. This hands-on-training will provide community leaders with the tools to empower and mobilize Hispanic older adults, their families, and communities to create positive change at the local level by demystifying community advocacy and giving them the ability to conceptualize the basic rights of U.S. democracy.

Participants will also engage in important political discussions affecting Hispanic families such as Social Security, Medicare, the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

About the Assembly of Grasstop Leaders

Monday, September 19, 2011 - L'Enfant Plaza Hotel

The world and U.S. populations are aging rapidly. Starting in January 1, 2011 each day 10,000 baby boomers will become senior citizens at a time when our country faces serious economic challenges. The question is will our older adults be able to retire? Hispanics are the fastest-aging population, and aside from the physical and cognitive changes that occur with the aging process, they face many other challenges related to indicators of well-being that prevent them from aging in good health, dignity, and with economic security.

The aging population boom calls for strategies to prepare for this demographic shift. NHCOA strongly believes we can work together to improve the lives of Hispanic older adults, their families, and caregivers through collaborative research, public policy, and programs that contribute to the well-being of all older adults in the U.S.

The Assembly of Grasstop Leaders will convene leaders of grassroots organizations to discuss the current state of Hispanic older adults and caregivers, including challenges and opportunities to work together to better serve them. Grasstop leaders will have access to innovative tools and resources to enhance the services and outreach community-based organizations and non-profits provide within their respective communities. This day-long leadership session will also focus on current public policy debates on topics critical to Hispanic older adults and their families, including Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

About the National Summit

Tuesday, September 20, 2011 - National Press Club

The NHCOA National Summit is the only event that focuses exclusively on Hispanic aging issues. This venue will provide a unique opportunity to network, gain insight, and share information with professionals, academics, researchers, providers, health practitioners, federal workers, policy makers, and leaders who work for and represent Hispanic older adults, as well as aging experts and Latino seniors and caregivers regarding the challenges they face at the local level and how we can be active players in constructing America's future by working together to improve the lives of our older adults, their families, and caregivers.



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NHCOA National Summit Plenary Sessions

Health Plenary - Achieving Health & Well-Being for Diverse Elders & their Families

Accessing and affording health care is vitally important at all stages of life, especially for Hispanics who disproportionately lack health insurance. In 2009, almost one-third of Latinos were uninsured. However, Medicare keeps more than 36 million older Americans healthy, including many Hispanic older adults who solely depend on this federal program for their health care needs. Therefore, any restructuring of the Medicare and Medicaid programs will critically affect millions of seniors across the country.

In this health plenary session, we will explore the current health status of Hispanic older adults and their families. We also discuss proposed changes to Medicare and Medicaid, such as turning them into a voucher system and block grants. Ultimately, we to develop positive solutions, including ways to eliminate health inequities as well as practical steps local leaders and older adults can take to ensure that changes to these programs truly reflect the needs of Hispanic older adults and all diverse seniors.

Economic Security Plenary - Building Prosperity: Reaffirming our Commitment

At the height of the Great Depression, the United States created Social Security, one of the most important and successful programs in our nation's history. Despite tough economic circumstances, our country made a commitment to keep the elderly out of poverty. Today, it is time to reaffirm that commitment. The reality is that people over 65, regardless of race and ethnicity, who fall into poverty least likely to emerge from it, compared to other age groups.

Hispanic older adults particularly experience higher rates of poverty and economic insecurity than the general population. Social Security is a key program that keeps many Latino seniors out of poverty, accounting for as much as 90% of their fixed monthly income. Without it, the elderly Hispanic poverty rate would increase from roughly 1 out of 6 (17.9%) to 1 out of 2 (50.7%).

In this plenary session, we will discuss the importance of Social Security in the Hispanic community, as well as proposed cuts, common misconceptions, and effective ways to strengthen it. We will also explore ways to create income security for Hispanic families and build prosperity in the Latino community.

Voting Trends Plenary - The Power of the Latino Vote

As the United States continues to become increasingly diverse, we are seeing emerging voting blocs that are shaping and deciding elections. In the Latino community alone, more than 500,000 Hispanics become eligible to vote each year. The population is also aging rapidly. For the next 19 years, about 10,000 people will turn 65 each day.

Within this age demographic, Hispanic older adults are among the fastest growing age groups in the nation. The large and rapidly growing Latino community will continue to increase in political power with each electoral cycle.

This plenary session will concentrate on Hispanic demographics, voting trends, and ways to mobilize the Latino community to vote and be politically active. Finally, we explore what key issues Hispanics will be focused on for the next election, particularly Latino seniors. We will reflect on the perspectives of Hispanic older adults and their families, which were collected at a series of regional events NHCOA hosted across the country this year.