



**COMUNIDADES LATINAS
UNIDAS EN SERVICIO**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:
Kathleen Westerhaus
Senior Vice President, Resource
Development & Contract Compliance
Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio
612-746-3557 / kwesterhaus@clues.org
www.clues.org

**COMUNIDADES LATINAS UNIDAS EN SERVICIO (CLUES)
RECIPIENT OF SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND GRANT FROM THE
TWIN CITIES LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT CORPORATION (LISC)**

**Grant Will Allow CLUES to Enhance Its Economic Advancement Services
to Help More Low- and Moderate-Income Families Build Their Assets, Increase Their Self-
Sufficiency, and Improve Their Quality of Life**

St. Paul & Minneapolis, February 16, 2011 – Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of a Twin Cities LISC Social Innovation Fund (SIF) grant to enhance its Economic Advancement Services, which applies a Financial Opportunity Center model. CLUES' Economic Advancement Services received this grant in recognition of its exemplary work to increase the stability and long-term self-sufficiency of low- and moderate-income families through the provision of a holistic spectrum of linguistically appropriate and culturally proficient, family-centric, coordinated services, including: financial coaching and education; employment coaching and placement; education and training services for career advancement; as well as public benefit and community resource access.

The purpose of LISC's SIF grants is to establish and expand Financial Opportunity Centers. Financial Opportunity Centers use a unique and impactful service bundling approach, including employment training and placement, budgeting, debt management, and financial coaching and counseling in one location to help clients find jobs, reduce debt, gain financial literacy, and build their assets.

“Financial Opportunity Centers have taken the blueprint for long-term financial planning that is common among more affluent individuals and tailored it to the specific needs of low- and moderate-income families,” says Michael Rubinger, national LISC president and CEO. “Thanks to these Centers, more struggling Twin Cities families will have the chance to stabilize their finances and grow their assets.”

Nationally recognized by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the National Council of the Raza (NCLR), CLUES' Economic Advancement Services consists of Employment Services, Education Services, the Financial Empowerment Program, and the Learning Together Program and employs a linguistically appropriate and culturally proficient, family-centric program model

to assist individuals and families in overcoming barriers to family stability and economic prosperity. Families enjoy improved parenting, financial stability, increased educational levels and improved English language proficiency, healthier home environments, and academically and socially successful children who pursue educational goals, careers, and economic independence to build stronger communities.

“On behalf of CLUES, we are very grateful to Twin Cities LISC for its generous grant in support of our Economic Advancement Services,” states Jesse Bethke Gomez, President of CLUES.

“This grant will provide for our innovative economic advancement program model, which combines employment, financial literacy, as well as education and training services to increase stability and long-term economic self-sufficiency for families, especially needed during these difficult economic times. As a provider of an innovative, family-centric, coordinated care delivery model of integrated health and human services, we understand the importance of making services more accessible for our clients by bundling them in one location. This grant will allow more Minnesota families to access services that assist them in attaining self-sufficiency and working towards long-term economic success.”

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About CLUES

CLUES is in its 30th year of service to the community and is among the top twenty-five Hispanic non-profit agencies in the United States, as ranked by Hispanic Business Magazine. The agency provides a family-centric, coordinated care model of linguistically appropriate and culturally competent services to Latino and other diverse communities in Minnesota, including: Mental Health Services; Chemical Health Services; Family Services; Economic Advancement Services; Aging Well Services; and Community Health Worker Services.