

The Educational Organization For United Latin Americans (EOFULA)
Spanish Senior Center

MEDIA ADVISORY – October 29, 2008
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**Hispanic Seniors to Receive Free Flu Shots
US Administration on Aging Official to Address Seniors on Staying Healthy this Season**

What: A free flu shot clinic for Participants of EOFULA Spanish Senior Center

Who: Edwin L. Walker, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Programs,
U.S. Administration on Aging
Seniors from EOFULA Spanish Senior Center
National Hispanic Council on Aging
DC Department of Health

When: Thursday, October 30, 2008
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm (Mr. Walker will be there between 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm)

Where: EOFULA Spanish Senior Center
1842 Calvert Ave, NW, Washington, DC

Background:

EOFULA Spanish Senior Center is partnering with DC Department of Health, US Administration on Aging and the National Hispanic Council on Aging to administer free flu shots to seniors at the Center. This clinic is the first of several flu shot clinics that EOFULA plans to have this flu season.

AoA Deputy Assistant Secretary Walker will visit with seniors at EOFULA to discuss the actions seniors and their families can take to protect themselves from the flu this year. Medicare covers the cost of a flu shot as well as a pneumococcal vaccine.

D.C. Hispanic elders comprise 4.1 percent of the city's senior population, and 92 percent live or are below the poverty level.

Seniors are among groups hardest hit by flu. Each year in the U.S., an average of 36,000 people die, and more than 200,000 are hospitalized from serious flu complications. Ninety percent of flu deaths and more than half of hospitalizations occur in people 65 years and older. Adults with diabetes who develop the flu are three times more likely to die, and most are age 65 and older. Only about 58 percent of Hispanics receive the flu shots and only about 34 percent are vaccinated against pneumococcal infections, compared to 67 percent of older white persons who receive the vaccinations.

EOFULA is part of the DC Office on Aging Senior Center Network, a component of the Administration on Aging's (AoA) national aging services network.

For nearly 40 years, the Educational Organization for United Latin Americans (EOFULA) has effectively served the Latino community in Washington, DC, specializing in creating and implementing comprehensive programs to address the unique needs of the Latino senior population. EOFULA – Spanish Senior Center programming includes medical case management, wellness services, group meals, and social services, among others.

For more information on EOFULA - Spanish Senior Center, visit www.eofula.org or call 202-483-5800.