

July 14, 2009

Ophelia McLain
Administration on Developmental Disabilities
Administration for Children and Families
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
370 L'Enfant Promenade SW
Mail Stop: HHH 405D
Washington, DC 20447

Dear Ms. McLain:

The Florida Action Team strongly supports of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) proposal titled "Councils on Developmental Disabilities Ayudar Familia Project."

Twenty-three of Florida's 67 counties report a Hispanic or Latino population of ten percent or higher. Nine of those counties have a Hispanic or Latino population in excess of 50,000 residents. Fourteen of those counties have experienced a growth of fifty percent or more in the Hispanic or Latino population. The four counties with the highest percentage of increase in the Hispanic or Latino population since 2000 are: Lake (163%); Lee (141%); Pasco (136%); Polk 95%). These counties are also designated as having a health professional shortage area designation, limiting access.

We recognize the potential barriers related to the participation of Hispanic and Latino families in programs addressing the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. We believe a successful education and training activity for Hispanic and Latino families with children with developmental disabilities, in the family's own language will increase the number of families accessing family supports.

We believe the project design will enhance the ability of Hispanic or Latino parents and guardians to access family supports that provide much needed services in Florida.

We appreciate your consideration of our request. I am, of course, at your disposal should you want to talk further about this opportunity.

Thank you.



Lynn James

KIN Co-Leaders/Florida