



**Día de la Mujer Latina and Houston Health Department Celebrate April as Minority Health Month by “Partnering for Health Equity”**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HOUSTON, Texas** - Día de la Mujer Latina (DML) and the Houston Health Department (HHD) celebrate the theme of National Minority Health Month, *Partnering for Health Equity*, by highlighting a partnership to reduce health disparities and increase resilience in underserved communities.

The two organizations collaborate to train diverse community health workers to motivate, inform, navigate, educate and link racial and ethnic minority populations to vital health services, with an emphasis on behavioral health. These professionals can also provide vision, diabetes and blood pressure screenings as well as patient navigation.

“These community health workers are skilled to motivate our community to access to care by communicating in a culturally and linguistically proficient manner,” said Venus Ginés, president and founder of Día de la Mujer Latina. “Attaining health equity in this region will require a person-centered multicultural approach and these community health workers are well prepared to meet these goals.”

The partnership, funded by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), provides the 160 hours of training required for community health worker certification.

“One of the great things about this partnership is the diversity of the community health workers,” said Solly Diaz, a division manager with the Houston Health Department. “This allows for more personable interactions that can help to break down stigmas and barriers that sometimes prevent access to health services.”

DML and HHD plan to identify, develop and nurture robust internship opportunities for the community health workers to acquire additional skills and work experience. The eventual goal is to establish a young adults-peer support network and community of practice to facilitate and enhance communication and best practice standards.

**About National Minority Health Month**

April is National Minority Health Month, a time to learn more about the health status of racial and ethnic minority populations in the U.S. The theme for 2018 is Partnering for Health Equity which highlights partnerships at the federal, state, local, tribal and territorial levels that help reduce disparities in health and health care. This year, the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will



celebrate impactful public and private sector collaborations that advance health equity and help improve the health of the nation.

### **About Día de la Mujer Latina**

Since 1997, Día de la Mujer Latina (DML), founded by a Latina cancer survivor, has been celebrating its signature health fiestas offering early detection screening to breast and cervical cancer plus other health challenges, i.e. diabetes, hypertension, obesity and HIV in forty states & in Latin America, as well as, patient navigation for follow up care. DML became the 1st Latina community-based organized approved as Texas Sponsored Certification Training Program providing the 160 Hour bi-lingual P/CHW training throughout Texas. DML has trained over 1800 Promotores/CHWs in Texas alone and served over 292,000 clients. [www.diadelamujerlatina.org](http://www.diadelamujerlatina.org).

### **About Houston Health Department**

The Houston Health Department (HHD) provides traditional public health services and seeks to use innovative methods to meet the community's present and future needs. HHD's mission is to work in partnership with the community to promote and protect the health and social well-being of all Houstonians. The department is the first health department in Texas and the second in a large U.S. city to earn national accreditation. Learn more at [HoustonHealth.org](http://HoustonHealth.org).