



Working with Hispanic Families in Baltimore

Carlos Bolanos

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SEEDCO HISTORY

- Established in NYC in 1987
- *EarnBenefits Online* (EBO) launched in 2005 now operates in five states
- We specialize in benefit screenings, health insurance enrollment, and workforce development with a variety of hard to reach populations

WHO WE ARE

- We help people access SNAP and 20 other benefits through community outreach and our EarnBenefits Online tool
- Seedco staff has screened 1,790 people for benefits with EBO since 2014
- We have become a trusted source for information and application assistance in Hispanic communities in Fells Point and Highlandtown
- We have been able to help Hispanic families by working with other trusted service providers

HISPANIC FAMILIES IN EAST BALTIMORE

18-25

Most parents are between the ages of 18-25



Many members of the District 1 community have jobs in construction, food service, and hospitality



Children are usually in kindergarten through 5th grade



Some members of the community are business owners



THE HISPANIC POPULATION IS GROWING

Hispanics are the fastest growing group in the city

There is a significant presence of Hispanics in South East Baltimore such as Highlandtown, Upper Fells Point, and Greektown

The average household income is at or below 185% of the FPL

30% of the general population in the area do not have a car and the average distance to a supermarket is more than a ¼ mile

CENSUS FACTS

- In 1930 there were fewer than 1,000 Hispanics
- There are an estimated 123,029 Hispanics in Baltimore
- As of 2010, Census data shows there are over 470,000 Hispanics in Maryland

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

PROBLEMS RESIDENTS FACE

FOOD DESERTS

There are 51 small grocery and corner stores in East Baltimore but only 10 of them accept WIC and SNAP benefits

Source: Baltimore City Dept. of Planning and Johns Hopkins Center for a Liveable Future

FEAR OF GOVERNMENT

There are growing fears and concerns mixed-status families may face grave repercussions for applying for SNAP or other benefits

POTENTIALLY HARMFUL LEGISLATION

Potential changes to public charge rules may discourage families who want to pursue citizenship

LANGUAGE BARRIERS

Most of our clients do not speak English, making it difficult to navigate the application process on one's own.

HOW WE ARE HELPING

- We collaborate with local organizations and subcontractors to educate families on SNAP, Health Insurance, and other benefits
- We screen families for over 20 different benefits and provide application assistance via EBO
- Provide fact-based information



IMPACT OF OUR WORK



- Remove language barriers by assisting clients in submitting an application
- We help clients avoid being denied by assuring they understand the process and by helping them submit documentation
- We save clients a trip to DSS by submitting applications online via MyDHR
- We bust myths that keep clients from attempting to apply