

City named finalist for municipal excellence award

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The National League of Cities (NLC) and CH2M HILL is proud to announce that the City of Fremont Human Services Department was one of 34 programs selected nationally as a finalist for the 2009 Awards for Municipal Excellence for its Community Ambassador Program for Seniors (CAPS). NLC received 192 nominations from cities and towns in 39 states. Sponsored with CH2M HILL, the Awards for Municipal Excellence recognize cities and towns for outstanding programs that improve the quality of life in America's communities.

"The City of Fremont Human Services truly embodies the spirit in which America's cities excel and welcome the future," said Donald J. Borut, NLC Executive Director. "NLC congratulates the City of Fremont for its successful efforts to help the community thrive." The finalists exhibited exceptional public-private partnerships, productive citizen and community collaborations, management of municipal resources, implementation of government policies, project implementation with tangible results, and/or the ability to replicate the project in other cities.

The Community Ambassador Program for Seniors (CAPS) is a unique civic partnership between the City of Fremont's Human Services Department and 7 local cultural and faith-based organizations: Centerville Presbyterian Church, Muslim Support Network, Sikhs Engaged in Volunteer Activities, India Community Center, Taiwanese Community Help Association, Our Lady of Guadalupe (Latinos), and St. Anne

Catholic Parish (Filipinos). CAPS integrates immigrants through a strength-based model that engages the full community and supports seniors in their own language, within their own cultural norms, and does so where seniors live, worship, and socialize.

Ambassadors serve as a bridge between the formal network of social services and their respective faith and cultural communities. In the past year, the 88 trained Ambassadors conducted outreach to over 1,500 individuals and helped over 600 seniors receive individual support to access services such as care management, health care, transportation, and MediCal. The Program has been funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and has received additional funding for sustainability from Alameda County Board of Supervisors Scott Haggerty's office.

"We are proud to be a finalist for this prestigious award. The CAPS program develops leaders within the immigrant community and strengthens civic partnerships among the City of Fremont and the multitude of groups interested in a supportive environment for all families to flourish in the Tri-City area," stated Suzanne Shenfil, City of Fremont Human Services Director.

The winners of the 2009 Awards for Municipal Excellence will be announced at a luncheon during NLC's Congress of Cities and Exposition in San Antonio, Texas on November 13th.

More information on the CAPS program can be found at www.capseniors.org and www.fremont.gov.