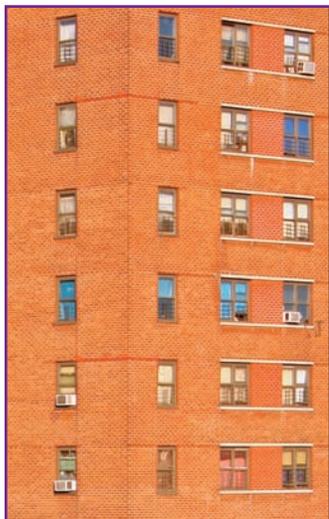




*Reaching the Maximum Level of Self-Sufficiency*

## Rent Paid to NYCHA for Cash Assistance Tenants Has Been Increased



Under legislation passed by New York State, rent paid to the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) on behalf of cash assistance (CA) recipients who live in NYCHA housing has been increased over a period of five years to meet the level of the CA shelter allowance paid to private landlords. The increase is taking place in five stages, the fourth of which has just been completed with HRA processing 9,144 rent increases. NYCHA will begin receiving the newly increased rent amounts in December. Individual families do not see a change in the rent payments because the rent is paid to NYCHA on their behalf.

The increased shelter allowance provided by HRA helps lessen NYCHA's financial difficulties, an effort that HRA has and continues to support. While the shelter allowance increase has the effect of modestly reducing Food Stamp benefits for many CA recipients, this effect has been reduced or eliminated by an expansion of eligibility for New York State's Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), which has the effect of increasing Food Stamp benefits.

## Executive Order Addresses Language Barriers

On July 22, Mayor Bloomberg signed Executive Order 120 creating a uniform language policy for all City agencies that in our city of nearly 3 million immigrants will provide equal access to government programs and services for New Yorkers with limited English speaking ability (LESA).

Under Order 120, all City agencies that interact directly with the public will provide interpretation services in at least the six foreign languages most spoken by their clients, and translate essential forms and documents into these languages. The Order is the culmination of advances that were made through the passage of Local Law 73, which required some City agencies serving the public (including HRA) to implement language assistance plans as outlined in the law, and by the passage of Executive Order 41, prohibiting City agencies from sharing immigration status with Federal officials. Both were passed early in Mayor Bloomberg's first term.

HRA's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Affairs (ORIA), which implements and monitors the Agency's LESA and immigrant services, has been working on providing language access for the past eight years. Prior to ORIA's formation, the Agency has a long history of providing language services. "We are pleased that HRA is several steps ahead due to our historical commitment, and the impetus of Local Law 73," ORIA's director Kavita Pawria said.

HRA will be working to expand translation in multiple languages, encouraging LESA individuals to ask for interpreter services and will increase resources to staff on serving LESA clients. Staff with questions on policy to call ORIA at 212-331-4550.

## HRA Program Updates

### Medicaid Fraud Prosecution Announced

On September 25, Brooklyn D.A. Charles J. Hynes and Commissioner Doar jointly held a press conference announcing the indictment of five individuals resulting from three Medicaid and one cash assistance fraud schemes, all investigated by IREA's Bureau of Fraud Investigation. The total fraud claim of these four cases is nearly \$500,000. The cases are being prosecuted.

### HRA Awarded USDA Grant

HRA, working with the Department for the Aging, the NYC Food Policy Coordinator and Food Bank, has been awarded a participation grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for an innovative program to enroll eligible senior citizens and enhance the benefit amount of those already enrolled. The HRA partnership was one of eight organizations nationwide to be awarded \$677,946 over a three-year period through a competitive process.

### FEGS/WeCARE Honored with U.S. D.o.L. Employment Award

FEGS/WeCARE received an Exemplary Public Interest Contribution Award from the U.S. Department of Labor ceremony, held on October 16 in Washington D.C. WeCARE's employment contractor, FEGS, was recognized for advancing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Through August 2008, the FEGS/WeCARE program placed 3,281 cash assistance clients with various types of disabling clinical conditions in jobs with a 75 percent retention rate at six months. In addition 6,100 clients have been awarded federal disability through the program.

### HRA Perspective Monthly Bulletin

Published by the City of New York  
 Human Resources Administration/  
 Department of Social Services

**Michael R. Bloomberg**, Mayor  
**Robert Doar**, Commissioner  
 Office of Public Information & Communications  
**Barbara Brancaccio**, Exec. Deputy Commissioner  
**Connie A. Ress**, Media Director  
**Melinda Mousouris**, Writer/Editor  
**Patrice Moller**, New Media Producer  
**Alexia Innis**, Web Coordinator

## Latino Heritage Celebration 2008 Highlights Leadership

### Event Calendar

#### Blood Drives

Help maintain NYC's blood supply. Make your donation at the following locations:

**Wednesday, November 19, 2008**, Linden Center #67, 45 Hoyt Street, 5th Floor, Room 525, Brooklyn, NY from 11:00 AM to 4:30 PM. To make an appointment, call Maria Ruparsic at 718-237-7331.

**Tuesday, December 2, 2008**, Metrotech Center, Busmobile, 15 Metrotech, Brooklyn, NY from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM. To make an appointment, call Larry Brown at 718-510-0371.

**Friday, December 12, 2008**, Investigation Revenue & Enforcement Administration (IREA) Bureau of Eligibility Verification (BEV), 253 Schermerhorn Street, 7th Floor Conference Room, Brooklyn, NY from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM. To make an appointment call Reuben Archer at 718-923-6536.

#### PAI Lunch and Learn Workshop

**Thursday, December 11, 2008**

Non-certificate one-hour CPR, sponsored by the New York Fire Department, will take place at 180 Water Street in the 12th floor café at 12 PM. Contact Karin Feldhamer, PAI Coordinator if you are interested. Kit with DVD and booklet will be provided.

#### 2008 Agencywide PAI Awards Recognize Outstanding Staff Accomplishments



The 7th Annual Commissioner's Agency wide PAI Award Breakfast Ceremony took place on October 23 at 180 Water Street on the 12th floor.

The Presentation of the Awards was made by OSR Interim Executive Deputy Commissioner Rachel Levine.

The PAI awards recognize both the accomplishments of departmental teams and of individuals. Nomination forms were submitted in May and selected through a meticulous process by the PAI Committee.

The 2008 winners of PAI Team Awards were:

- Gold Award** -- IREA/Revenue Division
- Silver Award** -- MICSA/HIV/AIDS Services Administration
- Bronze Award** -- FIA/Bronx Regional Office

The PAI Individual award winners were:

- Gold Award** -- Anatoliy Shapiro of IREA
- Silver Award** -- Raymond Singleton of FIA
- Bronze Award** -- Eduardo M. Sanchez of FIA

Commissioner Robert Doar congratulated the winners reflected on their example to others as he closed the program.

HRA held its annual Latino Heritage Gala at DC 37 headquarters on October 8 with a program whose chosen theme was "Education: Building Latino Strength." Speakers from within HRA, including General Counsel and Chair Roy A. Esnard and Commissioner Doar, and from outside the Agency



shared their thoughts with the more than

1000 staff that attended the morning or afternoon celebrations. The fiesta was completed with music, dance and food seasoned with Latin *sabor*. Five academic scholarships were awarded and essays of the winners were published in the committee's 2008 journal.



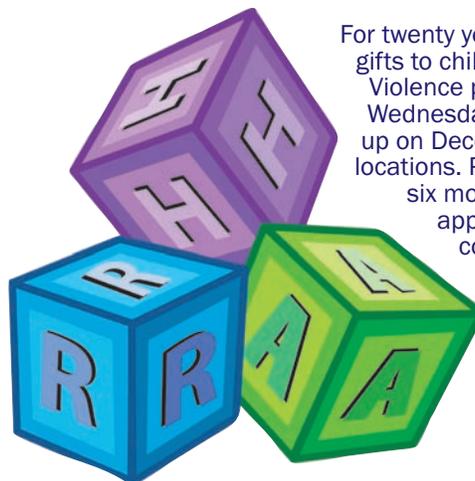
### NYC DADS Halloween Party for Dads and Kids is "All Treats"



The Halloween spirit was brought to life at the free NYC Dads party for low-income fathers and their children hosted by HRA on October 21. The Angel Orensanz Foundation was lit like a haunted castle, and the more than 300 dads and kids who attended were able to pick and take home Halloween costumes, create spiders, masks and jewelry, trick or treat for candy, and take home books and DVDs. Ricky's, Disney, Random House, La Maison du Chocolate, Kettle Corn, NYC Party City and Gristedes are just some of the sponsors who donated gifts to supports NYC DADS.

### Make A Child Happy This Holiday

HRA's Holiday Gift & Toy Drive November 19 - December 20



For twenty years now, HRA has contributed holiday gifts to children through HRA's HASA and Domestic Violence programs. This year's drive will begin on Wednesday, November 19, and gifts will be picked up on December 20. Bins will be placed at HRA work locations. Please donate a toy or gift for children from six months to 18 years old. For information on appropriate donations and on gift collection, contact Drive Chairperson Monique Rodriguez at 212-331-6014.

Last year, HRA staff were very generous with over 3,000 gifts and toys collected and distributed. Please help make the holidays happy for a child once again.