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## **Health Access America Working With Local Partners to Reach Columbia's Hispanic Population**

**Posted by Abby Horn**

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Columbia, SC (March 27, 2007) - Health Access America (HAA) and several Columbia-area Hispanic organizations have teamed up in the fight against the rising number of uninsured in Columbia's Hispanic community.

The rising number of uninsured people represents the most important health care issue facing the nation today. A high number of people without health insurance affects national productivity, social health, health care infrastructure and the cost of health care to everyone. Hispanic HAA partners include South Carolina Hispanic Outreach, Coalition for New South Carolinians, Hispanic Ministry of the United Methodist Church, South Carolina Primary Health Migrant Health Division, Hispanic Connections, Inc., South Carolina Hispanic Leadership Council, Hispanic Ministries, Crossroads Church, Agil Staff and St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

HAA, a national campaign supported by the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC), is making a concerted effort locally to link Columbia's uninsured with health insurance coverage. Health Access America will work with these Hispanic outreach partners to increase knowledge regarding the value of insurance and opportunities for coverage through various methods including grass roots community outreach, advocacy, education, research and polling.

"This is a great opportunity for the Hispanic community to learn about what programs are available and how to access them," said John Bayalis, Health Access America national field organizer. "We are happy to have such great partners to work with in reaching out and improving lives."

For more information on becoming a Health Access America partner and strengthening the quest to reduce the number of uninsured Columbia residents, please call (404) 885-9596 x24.

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