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SENATOR ALLARD AND SBA ANNOUNCE \$75,000 FOR MI CASA RESOURCE CENTER FOR WOMEN IN PUEBLO

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Senator Allard and SBA Administrator Hector Barreto announced today that the Small Business Administration (SBA) has awarded a \$75,000 grant to the Mi Casa Resource Center for Women in Pueblo. The funds were provided through a Women's Business Center sustainability grant.

"Small businesses are huge contributors to our economy, but even more importantly, they are a starting point for people, particularly women and minorities, to achieve the American dream," Senator Allard said. "This funding for the Mi Casa Resource Center for Women is part of a commitment to bring the dream of small business ownership to more people than ever before."

"We are pleased to make this announcement on new funding," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. "One of the most exciting things about the Women's Business Center Program is that it continues to reach out to new customers. Women business owners are one of the fastest growing segments of the small business community and President Bush recognizes their contribution to our economy. These centers will offer those entrepreneurs comprehensive, professional advice and counseling about how best to start and grow their businesses."

The Mi Casa Resource Center for Women is one of 70 new and existing centers around the nation receiving nearly \$7 million in a fresh round of funding announced today by the SBA. Combined with previous funding, over 100 Women's Business Centers have been funded through this program this year.

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