

## Voices of Immigrants in Action

Satellite Conference and Live Webcast  
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Video Communications and Distance Learning Division

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## Rural Women's Health Project



Working with rural communities to  
strengthen their capacity to  
overcome health barriers

## Voices of Immigrants in Action



Voices of Immigrants in Action

**Goal: To reduce the incidence of HIV in  
rural Hispanic immigrant  
communities by promoting integral  
health, access, and increasing  
community advocacy**

## Voices of Immigrants in Action

- VIA highlights
  - A regional project
  - Steeped in community perspectives
  - Snapshot of community reality
  - Focus in on issues that are correlating risk factors for HIV/AIDS
  - Reflects the up shift of intolerance towards immigrants

## VIA Objectives

1. Create a data base of Hispanic immigrant perspectives related to HIV and interrelated risk factors
2. Guide the development of replicable strategies and approaches to HIV prevention and testing

### **VIA Objectives**

- 3. Create tools to broaden advocacy efforts to influence shifts in services policies**



### **Barriers Best Understood Through Three Community – driven Recommendations**

- 1. Resource hubs**
- 2. Cross-issue advocacy partnerships**
- 3. Lay health worker programs**

### **Barriers Best Understood Through Three Community – driven Recommendations**

- Utilize community-driven recommendations to construct a bridge for both community engagement and to shift policy and programs for improved HIV/AIDS service delivery**

### **Recommendation #1: Resource Hubs**

- Utilize a comprehensive approach to respond to a wide range of underlying risk factors and builds bridges to critical resources and services**



### **Recommendation #1: Resource Hubs**

- VIA findings**
  - Increased school drop-out**
  - Teen pregnancy/early initiation of sex**
  - Increased substance abuse**
  - Lack of women prioritizing their own health**

### **Successful Elements of Rural Resource Hubs**

- Evaluate your own services**
- Offer a broad range of thematic services**
- Include programs and approaches that are culturally relevant**
- Introduce complimentary services**

### Successful Elements of Rural Resource Hubs


- Provide space at your location for additional social/health services



Putnam County Schools  
IMAGINE... Better schools for bigger dreams  
2011

### Recommendation #2: Cross-issue Advocacy Partnerships

- Partnering to diminish risk factors and build community potential through access, education, and increased trust



NCF Domestic Violence Task Force  
North Central Florida Farmworker Corridor HIV Task Force

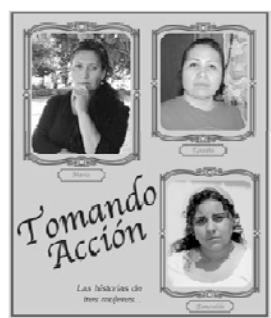
### Recommendation #2: Cross-issue Advocacy Partnerships

- VIA findings
  - Domestic violence is the leading concern for women
  - Women’s lack of prioritization of their needs/health
  - Women’s dependency on their partners

### Recommendation #2: Cross-issue Advocacy Partnerships

- Access barriers to specialty and general health services
- Lack of family planning

### Successful Elements of CIAP



Tomando Acción  
Las Mujeres con sus voces

### Successful Elements of CIAP

- De-prioritize your focus
- Illustrate correlating themes to new partners
- Respond to the socio-political climate to broaden partnerships
- Assure that the community served is at the table

### Successful Elements of CIAP

*“If we can just come together and help ourselves in coordination with organizations that struggle for our rights, there wouldn’t be such injustice.”*

– 25 year-old Mexican man,  
Tennessee

### Recommendation #3: Lay-health Worker Programs

- Provide trusting, relevant, and intimate support within a cultural context



### Recommendation #3: Lay-health Worker Programs

- VIA findings
  - Interest in church-led initiatives for prevention/testing
  - Impacted by community-based campaigns
  - Respond to culturally relevant education
  - Isolation/depression

### Lay-Health Worker Program, Rural Medical Services, Inc.

- Successful program elements
  - Male and female promotores
  - Integration of multi-topic health outreach
  - One-on-one educational sessions
    - Home, fields, church

### Lay-Health Worker Program, Rural Medical Services, Inc.

- Outreach at parent meetings
- Based out of “*lugares de confianza*”
- [www.ruralmedicalservices.org](http://www.ruralmedicalservices.org)



### Peer Youth Programs



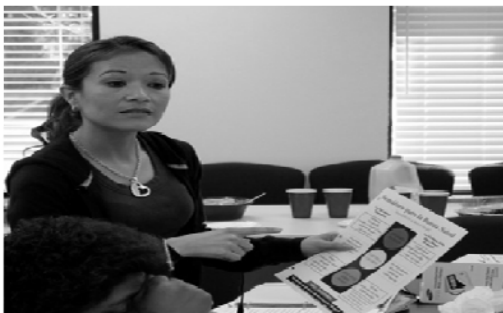
### Parent Meetings “escuela de padres”



### “Know Your Rights”



### Workshops/Testing in the Churches



### Community-based Campaigns



### Mobilization



### VIA Resources

- VIA Briefs to explore community driven recommendations
- VIA *InSite* introduces the broad issues affecting HIV  
– Immigration



### Resources: Farmworker Prevention Education

- VIA HIV Prevention and Testing Curriculum for Farmworker Communities
  - Bi-lingual video
  - [www.via.rwhp.org](http://www.via.rwhp.org)

### Resources: Women’s Outreach/ Lay-health Worker Program

- *Entre Nosotras [Between Us Women]*
- Women’s Comprehensive Health/HIV Curriculum
  - [rwhp@cafl.com](mailto:rwhp@cafl.com)



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