

Hotline to Health Launched

EGP NEWS SERVICE

A campaign to reduce the number of Hispanics without health insurance has been launched by the Foundation for Health Coverage Education (FHCE). The non-profit Foundation hopes to raise awareness among uninsured Hispanics the numerous resources and health care options they might not know about.

"A surprising fact is that many uninsured Hispanics are eligible for public and private health coverage, but are not enrolled," says the Foundation's Executive Director, Phil Lebherz,

When compared to their white counterparts, the disparities in accessing quality health care are

very high, states the Foundation, adding that statistics placed the number of uninsured Hispanics at about 15 million in 2006. Among Hispanic working families, only 40 percent have employer-sponsored health insurance, compared to 62 percent of whites. Of the 15 million uninsured Hispanics, a staggering 3.3 million are children, according to the Foundation.

Lack of information is one of the main reasons Hispanics don't get the type of quality care they need, adds the health organization.

"Making sure the uninsured are aware of their eligibility for health coverage is one of the top-most priorities of FHCE," added Lebherz. The mission of the organization is to simplify public and private health insurance eligibility

information in order to help more people access coverage.

The foundation has established the U.S Uninsured Help Line: A phone service available 24 hours, seven days a week to help find special resources pertaining to a caller's unique health insurance eligibility situation. To speak to a live operator call (800) 234-1317.

"It is necessary to understand the importance of health insurance. A lot of Hispanics avoid searching for health coverage because they believe they cannot afford it, but the truth of the matter is that one cannot afford not to live without health insurance," says Lebherz.

For more information on FHCE and its services, visit www.coverageforall.org or call (800) 234-1317.