



## La Esquina Legal

Why does my child need to see the doctor before school starts?

The school year is about to begin, and every child going to school or entering a day care center should see a doctor before school starts. This is for the safety of our children and the community. Institutions such as schools and day care centers put children in very close contact with one another, and this means that disease and sickness can spread very easily. Thus, New York State Law requires that children entering schools or day care centers have a physical examination by a doctor, as well as proof of immunization. Immunizations are the vaccines (shots) that protect your child from certain diseases including Measles, Mumps, Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough, Hepatitis B, and Meningitis. These are all very highly contagious diseases. Having your child protected from these diseases with vaccines not only keeps your child healthy, it helps to maintain a healthy community. In fact, if everyone makes a point to receive the recommended vaccines at the appropriate ages, eventually we may be able to eliminate some of the diseases completely.

It is important that you keep track of which vaccines your child receives and when and you should make sure that your child's immunizations are up to date. The use of the Lifetime Health Record is one way of keeping a record: your doctor reports all of the vaccines given to you or your child to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). You should bring your child's immunization record with you every time you take your child to the doctor or a clinic. This way, your doctor will know exactly which vaccines your child has already had, and which vaccine(s) your child will need.

If you do not have insurance, or need help locating a clinic where you can get your child vaccinated, call 3-1-1. You can also check the Department of Health website for details about what shots your child needs before beginning the school year: [www.nyc.gov/htl/doh/downloads/pdf/scah/scah0607.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/htl/doh/downloads/pdf/scah/scah0607.pdf).

This column is made possible by the support of **Barton, Barton and Plotkin**. Please send us your legal questions to [fmiranda@hispanicfederation.org](mailto:fmiranda@hispanicfederation.org).

## GRANT AVAILABLE for Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Projects

The **Corps Network**, through the support of the **Corporation for National and Community Service**, will make funding available to organizations that undertake service projects for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ( <http://www.mlkday.gov> ) on January 19, 2009.

The network will fund organizations that plan and implement service projects that mobilize a diverse group of volunteers to address conditions of poverty in their community. The network will disseminate a total of \$80,000 to approximately twenty-five sub-grantees. In accordance with CNCS requirements, at least 30 percent of these funds will be available to organizations outside of the network.

Award amounts will range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 each. Preference is given to organizations mobilizing the greatest numbers of volunteers. Applicants must enlist at least two hundred volunteers for every \$1,000 requested.

Applications are due by **5:00 p.m. EDT on September 23, 2008**. Visit the Corps Network Web site for the complete Request for Proposals: <http://www.corpsnetwork.org/MLKDayofService.asp>

## Hispanic Federation Hotline DTV Transition Phone-a-Thon

The Hispanic Federation has launched an aggressive outreach campaign to educate the Latino community about the digital television transition (DTV) that will take effect on February 17, 2009 and its subsequent impact on Hispanic viewers.

Through public service announcements produced by **Univision**, Hispanic Federation opened up its hotline to **Univision** viewers seeking information about DTV transition and the Converter Box Coupon Program. Over 1,000 people have been assisted with DTV transition questions and Converter Box Coupon Program applications through the Hispanic Federation toll-free hotline 1-866-HF AYUDA (899-432-9832).

If you were unable to call in at that time and do not have a cable or satellite service in all or some of your televisions, you may still contact the HF, providing your **Name, Phone Number** and **Address** and a staff member will register you for the coupon program.

### REMEMBER

*If leaving a message on the HF Hotline please specify your reason for calling so we can better assist you.*