

## **Sonia E. Mora**

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Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services  
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### **PROFESSIONAL PROFILE**

Sonia Mora is currently the Manager of the Latino Health Initiative (LHI) at the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services in Maryland, where she is responsible for directing all technical, managerial, and fiscal activities relating to the LHI, a unique effort that aims to address the health-related needs of Latinos in Montgomery County, Maryland. In her current post, Ms. Mora has developed several models of programs and strategies to address the needs of the Latino community. As Manager of the LHI, Ms. Mora is also responsible for formulating and advocating for policies to affectively serve Latinos and reduce health disparities. This work is done through the establishment of sound collaborative efforts with other public and private entities.

Specific accomplishments during her post as Manager of the LHI include the conduction of the first comprehensive assessment of Latino health needs in Montgomery County; the production and dissemination of the *Blueprint for Latino Health in Montgomery County, Maryland*, the establishment of a high-caliber Steering Committee that provides technical guidance and support and advocates on behalf of the Latino community; the acquisition of over \$6 million to support programmatic activities; and the establishment of cutting-age programs and initiatives in the areas of workforce development, health promotion, access to care, cultural and linguistic competency, data collection, analysis and reporting, emergency preparedness, organizational capacity building, and community involvement and advocacy. Through Sonia's leadership the LHI is now recognized as a model to address the public health needs of disenfranchised communities.

Throughout her career, Sonia has served on numerous task forces and committees and has worked with many community based organizations and federal, state, and local government entities. In 1994, she received the American Public Health Association Latino Caucus Award for her dedication and service to the Latino community. In November 2002, Sonia received the Health Advocate Award from the Montgomery County Hispanic Democratic Club. She is currently an Adjunct Instructor at the George Washington University School of Public Health.

Sonia received a bachelor's degree in Health Sciences from Marymount University and her Master in Public Health degree from Walden University.