

**BUSH FOUNDATION –
NEWS IN OUR COMMUNITY – July, 2008**

**BUSH FOUNDATION PROGRAM OFFICER JOSÉ GONZÁLEZ
NAMED TO NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Saint Paul, MN (July 25, 2008) – Local Funding Partnerships, a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, has named Bush Foundation Program Officer **José González** to its National Advisory Committee. The partnership between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and local grantmakers supports innovative, community-based projects that address the health or health care problems of people who are not reached by traditional health and social services, or for whom existing services are fragmented and insufficient.

González said, “I am very excited about the leadership, learning and impact opportunities Local Funding Partnerships will undoubtedly generate for the communities in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.” He first became connected with the RWJF program while working with a Bush Foundation grantee in western South Dakota as it explored and developed age-appropriate chemical health, violence prevention, and pregnancy prevention models for youth on Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations that were also culturally sensitive.

Bush Foundation President Peter C. Hutchinson commented: “Local Funding Partnerships was wise to seek out someone of Jose’s experience to guide their grantmaking focused on health outcomes for vulnerable populations. In his work over the last eight years here at the Bush Foundation, and before as a social worker in the Minneapolis Department of Health, he has been deeply involved with the people whom the Partnerships seeks to support.”

Local Funding Partnerships (LFP) provides grants of \$200,000 to \$500,000 per project, which must be matched dollar for dollar by local grantmakers. Recipients are chosen through a competitive process that begins when a project is nominated by a local funder.

In recent action, RWJF renewed its commitment to LFP through a \$27 million grant. RWJF Senior Program Officer Jane Isaacs Lowe said, “We hope to be responsive to the interests of funders from newer philanthropies—giving circles, rural funders’ collaboratives, and diversity-focused funds such as Native American, Hispanic, African-American and women’s affinity groups.”

Over the next three years, as part of the Advisory Committee, González will review proposals and participate in site selection, as well as offer strategic planning advice for future program direction and/or technical assistance to program grantees.