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City of Hialeah

For Immediate Release

Press Release

The City of Hialeah Special Population Programs are recognized as a Bright Idea by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation

(Hialeah, Florida, February 18, 2015) – The City of Hialeah Special Population Programs have been recognized as part of the 2015 Bright Ideas program by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, for being an innovative and noteworthy program. This year’s cohort includes 124 programs from all levels of government—school districts; county, city, state, and federal agencies; as well as public-private partnerships—that are at the forefront in innovative government action. The City of Hialeah Special Populations Programs provide quality therapeutic, recreation and education opportunities for adults and children with intellectual disabilities residing in the city and surrounding areas. Participants are encouraged to increase independent functioning through leisure and social activities, continuing education, practicing independent living skills, physical activity and Special Olympic competition. The program includes its unique adult program, dating back to 1990, as well as afterschool programs for school-age children with special needs and the inclusion of the Project VICTORY and Project SEARCH programs.

“The Bright Ideas program demonstrates that often seemingly intractable problems can be creatively and capably tackled by small groups of dedicated, civic-minded individuals,” said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in American Government Program at the Ash Center. “As exemplified by this year’s Bright Ideas, making government work better doesn’t always require massive reforms and huge budgets. Indeed, we are seeing that, in many ways, an emphasis on efficiency and adaptability can have further-reaching effects than large-scale reforms.”

This is the fourth cohort recognized through the Bright Ideas program, an initiative of the broader Innovations in American Government Awards program. For consideration as a Bright Idea, programs must currently be in operation or in the process of launching and have sufficient operational resources and must be administered by one or more governmental entities; nonprofit, private sector, and union initiatives are eligible if operating in partnership with a governmental organization. Bright Ideas are showcased on the Ash Center’s [Government Innovators Network](#), an online platform for practitioners and policymakers to share innovative public policy solutions.

The Innovations in American Government Awards Program recognizes the best innovations in American government, and brings national attention to their practices. In order to shine a light on noteworthy government programs and practices, the Innovations Program launched a recognition initiative called Bright Ideas that serves to further highlight and promote creative government initiatives and partnerships so that government leaders, public servants, and other individuals can learn about noteworthy ideas and can adopt those initiatives that can work in their own communities.

The City of Hialeah will receive a seal designating the City of Hialeah Special Population Programs as a Bright Idea and will be highlighted on the Government Innovators Network homepage as well as included in a searchable database. The City will also receive a certificate marking the achievement.

For more information, contact:

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About the City of Hialeah

The City of Hialeah, incorporated in 1925, is the sixth largest municipality in Florida, serving over 231,000 residents living in approximately 20-square miles. Hialeah, located in NW Miami-Dade County, has a Hispanic population of over 94%. A working class community, Hialeah is viewed as an industrial city that continues to grow. "The City of Progress" as known to many, is home to many Cuban exiles. The City of Hialeah is a full service city offering quality and affordable services to residents of all ages and abilities. Hialeah is a vibrant, family oriented community marked by cultural heritage and traditions known for its myriad of mom and pop stores which productively compete against national retail and restaurant chains and franchises.

About the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation

The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation advances excellence in governance and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. Through its research, education, international programs, and government innovations awards, the Center fosters creative and effective government problem solving and serves as a catalyst for addressing many of the most pressing needs of the world's citizens. For more information, visit www.ash.harvard.edu.

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