



► The Tufts Health Plan director of health care services, Juan Lopera addresses local small business owners and employees at Whittier Street Health Center.

Huge success at first small business forum

Last Tuesday, May 5th Tufts Health Plan in partnership with Eastern Bank, Whittier Street Health Center and Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council hosted the first Small Business Accelerator Forum at the Whittier Street Health Center in Boston.

The high energy and educational forum, that discussed topics such as access to capital, health care options, and supplier diversity, gathered over 125 people of small business entrepreneurs, local business owners and community leaders in an evening



that celebrated the growth and accomplishments of local business in the Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury areas.

"Our goal was to make resources and information available to help support small neighborhood-based businesses. We had a productive dialogue and are very interested in

expanding this program into other communities in the future," said Juan Lopera, Tufts Health Plan's director of health care services. *"We were very pleased by the turnout at the event and the enthusiasm of the attendees."*

Since 1979, Tufts Health Plan has been committed to providing a higher standard of health care coverage and to improving the quality of care for every member. Tufts Health Plan, offers you a local health plan with a national reputation for excellence.

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► Shaun Blugh, City of Boston's Chief Diversity Officer.



► Charles M. Smith, Senior Vice President - Small Business Administration Specialist



► Fred McKinney, Tuck School of Business.



► Rafael Carbonell, City of Boston.



► Frederica Williams, President and CEO, Whittier Street Health Center