



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARGENTINE DELEGATION TO VISIT U.S. RENEWAL COMMUNITIES

Arlington, Va. — A delegation of Argentine government officials and mayors of six Argentine cities will spend the week of April 23 in the United States visiting “Renewal Communities,” a model designed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to address poverty. The Argentines will explore how the model might be adapted to their country.

The visit is sponsored by the Inter-American Foundation as part of an IAF initiative to promote development through staking out Opportunity Zones—based on the HUD model and defined as geographic areas in which government, businesses and NGOs join forces with grassroots organizations to further economic growth through tax incentives, training and technical assistance. The IAF, through its grant program, plans to offer support to participating grassroots groups.

The nine Argentines are traveling to the Santa Ana Empowerment Zone, the Orange Cove Renewal Community and the Parlier Renewal Community in California. Their agenda includes meetings with mayors and other city officials in each location in addition to a tour of the renewal zones and visits to businesses attracted there. The

trip concludes in Washington, D.C., where the delegation will consult with officials of the U.S. Department of State and HUD.

President George W. Bush proposed the Latin American Opportunity Zones as part of the agenda for the 2005 Summit of the Americas which brought together the hemisphere's presidents. Opportunity Zones then became part of the Summit mandate. Delegations of Hondurans, Guatemalans and Nicaraguans have also traveled to the U.S. to explore the HUD model.

The IAF is a U.S. government foreign assistance agency that supports the development efforts of the organized poor in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the groups that support them, by responding to their proposals. Since its founding in 1969, the IAF has awarded 4,632 grants worth more than \$600 million. Together, the IAF and its grantees have improved conditions for hundreds of thousands of families. To learn more about the IAF, log onto www.iaf.gov.

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