

Josefina Carbonell
Assistant Secretary for Aging
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Josefina Carbonell was sworn in as Assistant Secretary for Aging at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on August 8, 2001. The Administration on Aging (AoA) is the federal focal point and advocate agency for older Americans and their concerns. The AoA is dedicated to preparing America to meet the challenges and to maximize the opportunities presented by the longevity of its people. Born in Cuba, Carbonell is a devoted daughter to her parents and proud mother to her son, Alfredo, a physician completing his residency in Michigan. Carbonell attended Florida International University and was the recipient of a fellowship in health management at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and is an alumnus of the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government.

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The Administration on Aging (AoA) is the federal focal point and advocate agency for older Americans and their concerns. The AoA is dedicated to preparing America to meet the challenges and to maximize the opportunities presented by the longevity of its people. AoA through its network that reaches into every community presents older Americans and their families with: information and referral, outreach, case management, transportation, personal care, home-delivered and congregate meals, adult day care, elder abuse prevention, health promotion, legal assistance, and other services. The AoA also provides support for family caregivers of older persons who are chronically ill or who have disabilities. In addition, AoA provides support and fosters research, demonstration, and training programs to better serve older Americans.

Prior to joining HHS, Carbonell was President and CEO of Little Havana Activities & Nutrition Centers (LHANC) in Dave County, Florida, an organization she help establish in 1972. Carbonell's leadership, coupled with solid management skills, transformed the one-site agency into the largest aging, health and nutrition project in Florida and the largest Hispanic geriatric health and human services organization in the nation. The LHANC currently operates 21 sites, serving more than 55,000 registered clients.

During her tenure at LHANC, Carbonell led efforts to implement Florida's "Volunteer Health Professionals Program" and established the Pro-Salud Clinic, a state pilot program providing primary health care, preventive screening, health promotion and medication control to older adults and their families. The Pro-Salud Clinic has expanded to include a spectrum of health and wellness programs specializing in geriatric and intergenerational health services.

Carbonell is nationally recognized for her work and is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2001 Claude Pepper Community Service Award, the 1997 Social Security Administration Commissioner's Team Award, the 1997 United Way Monsignor Bryan Walsh Outstanding Human Service Award, the 1995 National Alliance for Hispanic Health Community Service Award, the Miami Herald Charles Whited Spirit of Excellence Award in 1993, and the 1992 Miami Citizen of the Year Award.

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