

Meet the New Jersey Grantmakers

July 22, 2009

Profile Form

ORGANIZATION/FOUNDATION NAME:



PANELIST NAME & TITLE:

René O. Deida, *Program Officer*

ADDRESS:

751 Broad Street, 15th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

INTERESTS:

(e.g., Fields of interest, areas funded, types of support, geographic region, exclusions, etc.)

- Education, focusing on:
 - Educational Leadership to support reform in public education
 - Youth Development programs that build skills and competencies in young people
- Economic Development
 - Workforce Development programs
 - Business development opportunities to create or grow businesses
 - Community revitalization initiatives
- Arts and Civic Infrastructure
 - Arts as a quality of life issue and as an economic engine
 - Capacity building efforts to strengthen the nonprofit sector

CONTRIBUTIONS/SERVICE SUMMARY:

(e.g., 2008 disbursements, average grant size, summary of technical assistance etc.)

For a complete list of grants and guidelines, please visit www.prudential.com to see the 2008 Community Resources Department Annual Report.

PANELIST BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

René O. Deida serves as a Program Officer for The Prudential Foundation. In this capacity, he manages the international grantmaking strategy for the Foundation, the grantmaking in key domestic markets for Prudential, and the capacity building program. Prior to this, René managed the Foundation's youth development portfolio to provide services for children, youth and families, including The Prudential Greater Newark AIDS Initiative and Summer Grants for Youth. He also managed the Prudential Neighborhood Partnership program, which provided grants, social investments and volunteer opportunities in specific neighborhoods in the cities of Jacksonville, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Philadelphia and Newark. René also heads an evaluation initiative for Prudential's Community Resources Department, and is the Project Manager for the development of the department's multiple award-winning annual reports.

Prior to joining Prudential in 2000, René worked in his native Puerto Rico with PROGRESSA, a planning and project management firm, as a Deputy Director of Community Development. He was part of the management team of the only HOPE VI project in Puerto Rico working on the revitalization of two public housing complexes. He also provided training and technical assistance to Resident Councils of various public housing complexes throughout the island.

Before that, he was the Executive Director of St. Columba Neighborhood Club/El Club del Barrio, a Newark-based nonprofit organization, which experienced tremendous growth under his leadership and became one of the leading service providers of HIV/AIDS services to the Latino community.

Immediately after obtaining his bachelors degree from Rutgers University, Newark College of Arts and Science, Deida taught mathematics as an Adjunct Professor at Essex County College. Afterwards, he served as Assistant Director at the New Jersey Institute of Technology's Consortium for Pre-College Education in Newark, working with inner city youth at risk of dropping out of school.

Deida has held various board positions including Chairman of the Newark EMA HIV Planning Council, member of the New Jersey HIV Prevention Community Planning Group, and the Newark EZ/EC Advisory Board. Currently, he is the Development Director for Gotham Volleyball League, the largest gay volleyball organization in the country.

Deida holds a Masters degree in Public Administration from Rutgers University, Graduate School in Newark, New Jersey where he graduated with a 4.0 grade point average.