Talking About Scams

A Fotonovela from the Federal Trade Commission

Workshop: Talking about Scams
The Federal Trade Commission is the nation's consumer protection agency. Its mission is to protect consumers from fraudulent and deceptive practices.

This fotonovela is part of the FTC's ongoing efforts to help the Latino community avoid scams and stop fraud. For more information, visit www.consumer.ftc.gov/fotonovela.

Report fraud by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP or online at www.ftc.gov/complaint.
Thanks, Father.

You’re welcome. I’ll see you both at the workshop, right?

Of course.
Hi, I’m Eva. This is my husband, Pablo.

Hi, I’m Teresa.

Hello.

Workshop: Talking about Scams
Welcome, everyone. I’m glad you’re here. Today, we’re going to talk about how to stop scams.

Workshop: Talking about Scams
I got a call that said I won a government grant. And that I had to wire money to get it.

We know scammers are targeting our community. They lie to us and try to take our money. And they threaten us.
Does the government give away money like that?


This is Ed González Jones from the U.S. National Grants Agency. Great news! You won money from the federal government and I have your check for $9,000.

I won $9,000? Wow, that’s amazing!

All you have to do is send us a processing fee. Call me once you’ve done that and you’ll get your check in the mail.

I don’t believe it. The government is giving me money?

Believe it, because it’s TRUE.

No, it was a scam. You should never pay to collect a prize or grant money.

Does the government give away money like that?
Raise your hand if you or someone you know has gotten a call, an email, or a letter that was a scam?

That’s about what I expected. An FTC survey showed that Latinos are more likely to experience fraud. But we can fight back if we start talking about scams.
Let's look at Fatima Says No to an Income Scam. Fatima got a call saying she could make money from home.

Fatima is excited about her chance to make money.

I'm waiting for my package. I can't wait to start selling and making money.

I hope this company is better than the one I signed up with. I haven't sold anything!

Rocio hasn't been able to sell the toys or make any money. In fact, she is having problems with the company.

Maybe she was scammed...

Wow, Rocio helped Fátima avoid a scam. What a good friend!
Talk about Scams

It’s so important to talk about scams. Even if you’re not sure it is a scam, tell someone. You could help someone you care about avoid a scam. And it could help you avoid the scam, too.

My cousin fell for a scam.

Oh no, what happened?

They said he owed money. And if he didn’t pay, they’d send the police and call immigration. He was intimidated, so he paid.
I understand. But it’s important to tell the FTC.

Did your cousin report the scam to the Federal Trade Commission?

No, he was embarrassed.

Every story makes a difference. I want you to watch this news report.
The imposters told Ms. Suarez she owed $3,000. They threatened to report her if she didn’t pay. But after talking to her son, she realized it was a scam. She reported it to the FTC. Thanks to her and others who reported it, the FTC stopped the scam.

Wow, she was brave. Maybe I will tell my cousin to report it.

He can give as much or as little information as he’s comfortable with. His story could be the one that helps the FTC stop the scam.
We only have a few minutes. Who can tell me something you learned today?

If we see something we think is a scam, we should talk about it.

And we should report it to the Federal Trade Commission.
You can report a scam to the FTC online or by phone.

Report Scams

ftc.gov/complaint

1-877-382-4357

You can report it online from your mobile phone, too.
Talking about Scams Makes a Difference

- If you see something you think is a scam, talk about it, even if you’re not sure it is a scam.

- Talking about a scam could help you avoid falling for it. And you might help someone you care about avoid a scam, too.

- Report scams to the Federal Trade Commission. Call 1-877-FTC-HELP or go online from your mobile phone or computer to ftc.gov/complaint.
This fotonovela is part of the Federal Trade Commission’s ongoing efforts to raise awareness about scams targeting the Latino community. The story offers information about talking about and reporting scams.

See all of the FTC’s fotonovelas at www.consumer.ftc.gov/fotonovela.

Order free educational materials from the Federal Trade Commission at bulkorder.ftc.gov.

Sign up to get free scam alerts and other news at ftc.gov/stay-connected.

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