Supporting Immigrant Integration

IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION:
ESTABLISHED AND NEWCOMER RESIDENTS WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE ENGAGED IN COMMUNITY LIFE.

An independent evaluation of the initiative is being conducted by a team of evaluators led by the Association for Study and Development of Community. The evaluation is examining how communities formed collaboration to support immigrant integration and whether outcomes identified in the community plans are achieved. In addition, community leaders will provide insight into residents’ sense of immigrant integration in the 10 grantee communities.

The Immigrant Integration phase of the Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families Initiative is managed by The Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning. For additional information about the initiative, contact Susan Downs-Karkos, Senior Program Officer, susan@coloradotrust.org. For more information about this initiative, contact Soo-Jin Yoon, samsung@coloradotrust.org.

IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION MEANS CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITIES AND IMMIGRANTS TO WORK TOGETHER AND TO THRIVE. IT’S OUR GOAL TO HELP COLORADO COMMUNITIES TO BECOME STRONG AND VIBRANT PLACES IN WHICH TO LIVE.

John R. Moran, Jr., President & CEO of The Colorado Trust
Historically, immigrants and refugees have settled in the United States seeking the American Dream—a peaceful and prosperous existence based on values of human dignity and human rights.

People leave their homelands for a variety of reasons—seeking religious tolerance, political freedom, refuge from war, economic opportunity or reunion with family. The United States, with its history as a nation of nations, remains a chief receiving country of such immigrants and refugees.

The Spanish colonization of the Americas began in the late 1400s. Thereafter came the English colonists of the 1600s, followed by the Dutch, French and Germans. Some of these original immigrants brought with them African slaves, a practice that continued through the early 1800s.

Large numbers of German, Polish and Russian Jews emigrated to the United States from the 1820s to the 1880s, sparking industrial growth in New York City and elsewhere. Italians and Scotch-Irish farmers also emigrated during this time.

The greatest influx of immigrants to date occurred between the 1880s and the early 1920s when Polish immigrants settled in cities such as Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit, and many Eastern Europeans settled in New York and other major cities. Also during this period, Armenians emigrated to escape Muslim massacres, and Japanese and Chinese men came to America to work as field laborers, farmers, railroad workers and domestic servants.

The multicultural inheritance of Mexican Americans reflects the influence of Spain, Mexico and indigenous cultures, shaped by hundreds of years of survival and adaptation. In the 1920s, Mexicans arrived as temporary agricultural workers, and Filipinos came to work the sugar cane plantations. By 1930, the migration of West Indians rose approximately 85,000, most of whom settled in black neighborhoods on the East coast.

The current period of immigration began in 1965 when U.S. Immigration laws gave preference to close relatives of U.S. citizens and immigrants with skills needed in the United States.

Colorado's foreign-born population increased 160% between 1990 and 2000, and now comprises 9% of the states increasingly diverse population. These newcomers offer a variety of skills and talents to Colorado communities, including cultural richness and a strong work ethic.

Immigrants contribute to the state's social composition and economic success in many ways—from helping ease the revitalizing neighborhoods and competing products and services. Immigrants also hold key roles in the civic life of their communities.

With most settle along the Front Range, smaller towns have also experienced significant increases in immigrant populations. According to Census 2000 figures, immigrant populations in Garfield, Eagle and Summit counties increased 568%, 389% and 722%, respectively, with immigrants filling job vacancies in ski resorts, hotels and other service industries. Immigrant populations in Morgan, Yuma and Lincoln counties increased 218%, 873% and 792%, respectively, with most newcomers working in the meatpacking and agriculture industries.

Yet all too often, immigrants and refugees are left to fend for themselves when it comes to adapting to a new culture and society and integrating into civic life. Newcomers often face language barriers, as well as barriers to affordable housing, health care access, education, employment and legal services, as well as discrimination.

Under The Colorado Trust’s immigrant integration initiative, 10 Colorado communities are developing and implementing comprehensive plans to help immigrants and refugees adjust to and become an integral part of their communities.
IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION:
ESTABLISHED AND NEWCOMER RESIDENTS WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE ENGAGED IN COMMUNITY LIFE.

An independent evaluation of the initiative is being conducted by a team of evaluators led by the Association for the Study and Development of Community. The evaluation is examining how communities formed collaboration to support immigrant integration and whether outcomes identified in the community plans are achieved. In addition, a community survey will provide insight into resident views of immigrant integration in the 30 grantee communities.

The immigrant Integration phase of the Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families Initiative is managed by The Spring Institute for Interultural Learning, Susan Brown-Karkos, Senior Program Officer, susan@springinstitute.org. For additional information about the associated evaluators, contact Nancy B. Cott, Director of Evaluation, nancy@kohlerfoundation.org.

Supporting Immigrant Integration
AN INITIATIVE OF THE COLORADO TRUST
Historically, immigrants and refugees have settled in the United States seeking the American Dream—a peaceful and prosperous existence based on values of human dignity and human rights.

People leave their homelands for a variety of reasons—to seek religious tolerance, political freedom, refuge from war, economic opportunity, or reunification with family. The United States, with its revered status as a nation of nations, remains a chief receiving country of such immigrants and refugees.

The Spanish colonization of the Americas began in the late 1400s. Thereafter came the English colonists of the 1600s, followed by the Dutch, French and Germans. Some of these original immigrants brought with them African slaves, a practice that continued through the early 1800s.

Large numbers of German, Polish and Russian Jews emigrated to the United States from the 1820s to the 1880s, sparking industrial growth in New York City and elsewhere. Italians and Scotch-Irish farmers also emigrated during this time.

The greatest influx of immigrants to date occurred between the 1880s and the early 1920s when Polish immigrants settled in cities such as Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit, and many Eastern Europeans settled in New York and other major cities. Also during this period, American Christians emigrated to escape Muslim massacres, and Japanese and Chinese men came to America to work as field laborers, miners, railroad workers and domestic servants.

The multicultural inheritance of Mexican Americans reflects the influences of Spain, Mexico and indigenous cultures, shaped by hundreds of years of survival and adaptation. In the 1920s, Mexicans arrived as temporary agricultural workers, and Filipinos came to work the sugar cane plantations. By 1930, the migration of West Indians rose to approximately 65,000, most of whom settled in black neighborhoods on the East coast.

The current period of immigration began in 1965 when U.S. Immigration laws gave preference to close relatives of U.S. citizens and immigrants with skills needed in the United States.

Colorado's foreign-born population increased 160% between 1990 and 2000, and now comprises 9% of the state's increasingly diverse population. These newcomers offer a variety of skills and talents to Colorado communities, including cultural richness and a strong work ethic.

Immigrants contribute to the state's social composition and economic structure in many ways—from paving the way to revitalizing neighborhoods and creating products and services. Immigrants also hold key roles in the civic life of their communities.

Colorado's foreign-born population in 2000: 55.6% were from Latin America, 34.6% from Asia, 13.9% from Europe, 5.1% from North America (including the greater Canada region), 2.4% from Africa and 0.9% from Oceania (i.e., the greater Australia and New Zealand region).

While most settle along the Front Range, smaller towns have also experienced significant increases in immigrant populations. According to Census 2000 figures, immigrant populations in Garfield, Eagle and Summit counties increased 589%, 399% and 522%, respectively, with immigrants filling job vacancies in ski resorts, farms and other service industries.

Immigrant populations in Morgan, Yuma and Lincoln counties increased 218%, 873% and 792%, respectively, with most newcomers working in the meatpacking and agriculture industries.

Yet all too often, immigrants and refugees are left to fend for themselves when it comes to adapting to a new culture and society, and integrating into civic life. Newcomers often face language barriers, as well as barriers to affordable housing, health care access, education, employment and legal services, as well as discrimination.

Under The Colorado Trust's Immigrant Integration initiative, 10 Colorado communities are developing and implementing comprehensive plans to help immigrants and refugees adjust to and become an integral part of their communities.
A NATION OF NATIONS

Historically, immigrants and refugees have settled in the United States seeking the American Dream—a peaceful and prosperous existence based on values of human dignity and human rights.

People leave their homelands for a variety of reasons—to seek religious tolerance, political freedom, refuge from war, economic opportunity, or reunification with family. The United States, with its history just as a nation of nations, remains a chief receiving country of such immigrants and refugees.

The first wave of immigration began with the English colonists of the 1600s, followed by the Dutch, French, and Germans. Some of these original immigrants brought with them African slaves, a practice that continued through the early 1800s.

Large numbers of German, Polish and Russian Jews emigrated to the United States from the 1820s to the 1880s, sparking industrial growth in New York City and elsewhere. Italians and Scotch-Irish farmers also emigrated during this time.

The greatest influx of immigrants to date occurred between the 1880s and the early 1930s when Polish immigrants settled in cities such as Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit, and many Eastern Europeans settled in New York and other major cities. Also during this period, American Christians emigrated to escape Muslim massacres, and Japanese and Chinese men came to America to work as field laborers, miners, railroad workers and domestic servants.

In the 1920s, Mexicans arrived as temporary agricultural workers, and Filipinos came to work the sugar cane plantations. By 1950, the migration of West Indians rose to approximately 80,000, most of whom settled in black neighborhoods on the East Coast.

The current period of immigration began in 1965 when U.S. Immigration laws gave preference to close relatives of U.S. citizens and immigrants with skills needed in the state's increasingly diverse population. These newcomers of-

IMMIGRANTS IN COLORADO

Colorado’s foreign-born population increased 183%, between 1990 and 2000, and now comprises 9% of the state’s increasingly diverse population. These newcomers offer a variety of skills and talents to Colorado communities, including cultural diversity and a strong work ethic.

Immigrants contribute to the state’s social composition and economic structure in many ways—from paying taxes to revitalizing neighborhoods and creating products and services. Immigrants also hold key roles in the civic life of their communities.

Colorado’s immigrant population in 2000: 55.6% were from Latin America, 34.6% from Asia, 17.6% from Europe, 17.0% from North America (including the greater Canada region), 2.8% from Africa and 0.8% from Oceania (i.e., the greater Australia and New Zealand region).

While most settle along the Front Range, smaller counties have also experienced significant increases in immigrant populations. According to Census 2000 figures, immigrant populations in Garfield, Eagle and Summit counties increased 568%, 389% and 722%, respectively, with immigrants filling job vacancies in ski resorts, hotels and other service industries.

Immigrant populations in Morgan, Yuma and Lincoln counties increased 218%, 873% and 792%, respectively, with immigrants filling job vacancies in meatpacking and agriculture industries.

While all newcomers face the process of integration, it is a highly individualized process of becoming part of a new community and feeling connected to a new country. To thrive as members of a receiving community, immigrants...
IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION: ESTABLISHED AND NEWCOMER RESIDENTS WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE ENGAGED IN COMMUNITY LIFE.

SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION

To help newcomers adapt to life in Colorado, The Colorado Trust introduced its Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families Initiative (SIRFI) in 2000. Through this four-year effort, the Trust supported 23 organizations that provide mental health, cultural adjustment services to immigrants and refugees.

As the initiative unfolded, The Trust recognized the need for greater collaboration by both immigrants and their receiving communities to achieve successful immigrant integration – including collaboration among mainstream institutions, immigrant-serving organizations and individual community members.

Under SIRFI’s new Immigrant Integration phase – a year-and-a-half-year (2008-2009) $4 million endeavor – 10 Colorado communities are working toward the common goal of forming broad community coalitions, including representatives from the health care, education, business, housing, law enforcement and local government sectors, as well as libraries, faith-based organizations, immigrant-serving organizations and, of course, immigrants and refugees themselves.

Through an inclusive community planning effort and long-term implementation, the Immigrant Integration efforts aim to build communities that are a productive and vibrant whole, in reflection of the cultural, religious and political diversity in all its members.

IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION – INCLUDING collaboration among mainstream institutions, immigrant-serving organizations and individual community members.

The grantee communities of The Colorado Trust’s Immigrant Integration effort have formed inclusive alliances among immigrants and refugees into their communities:

- The Immigrant Integration phase of the Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families Initiative is managed by The Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning.
- The Immigration Integration phase of the Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families Initiative is managed by the Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning.
- To learn more about this initiative, contact Sue-Dee Root, Director, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning.
- For additional information about the evaluation, contact Sue-Dee Root, Director, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning.
- For more information about this initiative, contact Sue-Dee Root, Director, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning.
- For additional information, contact Sue-Dee Root, Director, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning.
- For more information about this initiative, contact Sue-Dee Root, Director, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning.

IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION

SUCCESSFUL IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION REQUIRES A MUTUAL COMMITMENT BETWEEN IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES,

FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES,

- A strong desire to contribute as soon and fully as possible to their community by assuming leadership roles and participating in civic life.
- A willingness to adapt to a new lifestyle without losing their own identity or rejecting their past.
- The opportunity to create opportunities that empower immigrants by providing a sense of belonging, participation and success.
- Building a sense of responsibility for one’s neighbors, family, friends and schoolmates.

FOR RECEIVING COMMUNITIES,

- A strong desire to welcome immigrants into their communities.
- A strong desire to provide the tools that will help immigrants put down roots in a welcoming community, which is something that we value a healthy and responsible business owner in our community.
- A strong desire to model the behavior that helps build a community of people who care for each other and from whom each other.
- A strong desire to support the integration of immigrants into their community.

People from different cultures often have reservations about working openly with the police department to try to build bridges throughout the Latino community to show immigrants that we are here to help them. The police force should reflect the demographics of our community, which is something that we are working on. — Eddie Roberts, Chief of Police, Town of Breckenridge

Supporting Immigrant Integration

AN INITIATIVE OF THE COLORADO TRUST


© 2005 The Colorado Trust. All rights reserved.

IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION MEANS CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY AND IMMIGRANTS TO WORK TOGETHER AND TO THRIVE. IT’S OUR GOAL TO HELP COLORADO COMMUNITIES TO BECOME STRONG AND VIBRANT PLACES IN WHICH TO LIVE.

JOHN R. MORAN, JR., PRESIDENT & CEO OF THE COLORADO TRUST

"Our attitude toward immigration reflects our faith in the American ideal. We have always believed it possible for men and women who start at the bottom to rise as far as their talent and energy allow. Neither race nor place of birth should affect their chances."

- ROBERT KENNEDY

IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION

A RESEARCH AND POLICY INITIATIVE OF THE COLORADO TRUST


"Our attitude toward immigration reflects our faith in the American ideal. We have always believed it possible for men and women who start at the bottom to rise as far as their talent and energy allow. Neither race nor place of birth should affect their chances."

- ROBERT KENNEDY