



Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families
Supporting residents in working together for healthy communities

Community:	Summit County
Year Started:	2005
Population:	~29,706
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Focus Areas

Community and leadership • Education and training • Health • Information and materials • Multicultural activities • Workforce and economic development

Project Description

- In collaboration with Summit County Social Services, FIRC maintains a list of local interpreters and translators of six languages. Additionally, several local resources have been translated into multiple languages, including the *Summit County Resource Guide*, *Summit and Eagle County Resource Guide for the Fifth Judicial Courts* and a mental health resource guide that features the county's bilingual mental health providers.
- In partnerships with Colorado Legal Services, FIRC presents trainings to the community in multiple languages – topics include immigration law, domestic violence, discrimination, visas for victims of human trafficking, civil law and taxes.
- In Spanish and French, FIRC supports clients' enrollment in health insurance programs and/or public assistance medical care (staff at the Summit Community Care Clinic is currently 80% bilingual).
- A traveling "storytellers" photojournalism display highlights Summit County's immigrant, refugee and receiving community members. Showcased at various locations, the project helps raise awareness about the changing demographics of Summit County.
- In collaboration with the High Country Soccer Association, the *Conexión de Fútbol* program matches Latino youths with law enforcement mentors, and provides scholarship opportunities for these youths to participate in the Colorado State Youth Soccer Association and a local soccer league. The program brought *La Mezcla* – the second annual World Cup soccer tournament and celebration of the sport – to Summit County.

Results

Several cultural competency trainings have taken place, including organizational trainings in leadership and intercultural communications. Further, through continued needs assessments of the West-African Community Care Team, Latino Health Forum and FIRC's General Assistance and "Families United" programs, local agencies and organizations are proactively addressing the needs of immigrant and refugee populations. As well, several additional groups have been created to address community integration, including a cultural education committee at the Care Clinic, a business development group and an Advisory Council to local law enforcement.