



Helping Immigrants & Refugees In Colorado



PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE COLORADO TRUST'S SUPPORTING IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEE FAMILIES INITIATIVE

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According to Census 2000 estimates, Colorado's population as a whole grew by about thirty percent during the past decade and our immigrant population more than doubled. While many immigrant and refugee families adjust well to their new lives in Colorado, others face significant barriers when relocating here. Some of these barriers include: language, health care, employment, cultural differences, mental health, education, housing, racism and legal issues.

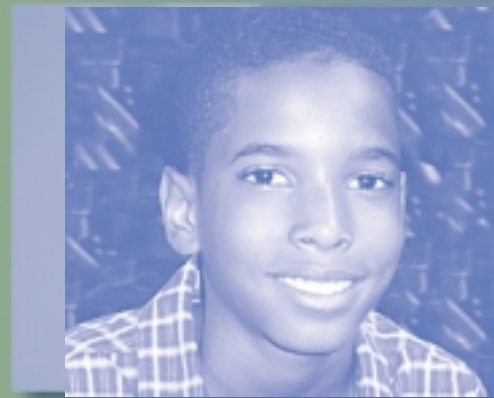
The Colorado Trust's \$7.4 million, five-year (2000-2005) Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families Initiative is focused on supporting the mental health and cultural adjustment of immigrants and refugees, and enhancing language interpretation assistance for their healthcare needs.

MENTAL HEALTH AND CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT COMMUNITY GRANTS

The mental health and cultural adjustment community grants are designed to support the positive cultural adjustment of immigrants and refugees through critical services such as counseling, English as a Second Language classes, support groups and parenting classes. Funds from The Trust support the efforts of 23 organizations to provide mental health and cultural adjustment services to immigrants and refugees across Colorado.

All SIRFI grantees, in conjunction with their grants, are offered technical assistance. Technical assistance is managed by the Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning and is designed to help grantees improve or expand their capabilities in areas of their choice, including:

- Enhancing program quality
- Program evaluation
- Implementing model programs and best practices
- Developing linguistically and culturally appropriate programming
- Fundraising and sustainability
- Public outreach and awareness
- Communications
- Board development
- Strategic planning
- Collaboration with other community organizations
- Volunteer recruitment and retention
- Financial and budgetary management
- Increasing referrals and follow-up services with other organizations.



The Spring Institute assists grantees in choosing and overseeing their technical assistance providers, but does not, in most cases, directly provide technical assistance to the grantees. Project consultants – selected by each grantee – help grantees determine their technical assistance needs, find consultants and trainers that best suit the needs of grantees, and remain available to help throughout the process. Each grantee is allotted a minimum of 50 days of technical assistance throughout the three year term of their grant. Grantees are encouraged to share their technical assistance resources or participate in joint training with other grantees.

EVALUATION

An initial two-year, qualitative evaluation is being conducted by the REFT Institute and LARASA to explore how immigrants and refugees experience services provided by the grantee agencies. Findings from this assessment will inform evaluation activities for the last three years of the initiative.

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CONTACT AT THE COORDINATING AGENCY

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GRANTEES

A.F. WILLIAMS FAMILY MEDICINE CENTER *(serving the metropolitan Denver area)*

The Colorado Refugee Health and Mental Health Program assists refugees with all aspects of health care. The clinic provides the federally-mandated health screening for all refugees who arrive in the metropolitan Denver area and offers ongoing health and mental health services, particularly for refugees experiencing a mental health crisis. The clinic also provides training to other health care providers and agencies who are caring for refugees and serves as a resource for community members who encounter refugees in crisis.

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ASIAN PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER *(serving El Paso County)*

The center, a community-based mental health clinic, provides victim assistance and mental health services in more than 10 different languages. The center also is developing outreach and education programs to eradicate negative community attitudes toward people who need mental health services and developing further human services resources within the Asian American/Pacific Islander community.

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ADULT EDUCATION CENTER OF DURANGO/LA PLATA UNITY COALITION

(serving the Four Corners region)

A number of community-based nonprofit organizations and agencies – including schools, health and mental health services organization – work together to promote mental health and cultural adjustment for immigrants in southwestern Colorado. The coalition supports the mental health of immigrant families by providing mental health care and services for prevention and treatment of substance abuse. To increase English fluency and success in school of immigrants and refugees, the coalition offers English as a Second Language classes, programs designed to help improve attendance and academic performance of immigrant students and a bilingual family literacy program. The coalition also assists immigrants and refugees who have experienced domestic abuse.

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BOULDER COUNTY IMMIGRANT COLLABORATIVE *(serving Boulder and Weld counties)*

A joint effort by the Community Development Corporation, El Centro Amistad and El Comité de Longmont, the collaborative provides a variety of training programs on immigrant rights, advocacy skills for Latino families, leadership training and institutional change. The collaborative also holds workshops for Latino parents about how the United States education system works and ways to become better advocates for their children. El Centro Amistad and El Comité de Longmont provide personalized services for immigrants and refugees, including advocacy, information and referrals.

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES NORTHERN*(serving the City of Greeley and Weld County)*

The project Amigos de la Comunidad Plaza del Milagros serves low-income Hispanic and immigrant families who are employed primarily by agricultural businesses throughout Weld County. The project uses English as a Second Language classes to help teach basic coping skills, facilitate cultural adjustment and organize recreational and leisure activities. Mutual aid groups, designed to help immigrants and refugees support one another, also are offered by the project.

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES PUEBLO *(serving Crowley, Otero and Pueblo counties)*

Catholic Charities Pueblo provides mental health and literacy services for migrant communities. Mental health services focus on family issues, including domestic violence, substance abuse, acculturation, isolation and depression. The organization also offers a women's class, designed to prevent women's isolation from the community.

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**COLORADO WEST REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CENTER***(serving Routt and Moffat counties)*

The center identifies immigrant and refugee children with possible social and emotional needs, learning issues or cultural adjustment problems and offers intervention and outreach services for these children.

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CRAWFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER *(serving Aurora)*

To build healthy families and support family efforts to access community resources, the center reduces barriers to resources and promotes community involvement. The center also provides outreach, family advocacy, education and support services to immigrant, refugee and migrant families in Aurora who have limited proficiency in English. Families can use the assistance of the center to connect with appropriate health, mental health and human services in their community.

ANGELA SIMMONS, DIRECTOR

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ECCCOS FAMILY CENTER *(Ethnic Counseling and Community Outreach Services)**(serving the metropolitan Denver area)*

The center helps indigent Latino immigrant families access mental health and related support services to assist them in their acculturation process. Services are designed to help clients maintain a strong cultural identity while developing English skills, learning about social systems and building culture-specific support systems.

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**FAMILY TIES WEST FAMILY CENTER** *(serving Montrose, Delta, San Miguel, Ouray, Gunnison and Hinsdale counties)*

The organization provides classes on parenting skills and English as a Second Language classes to immigrant and refugee families. To help reduce the stress associated with living in a new culture, the center also offers advocacy and mental health services.

DAWN SCHLAUGER

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FAMILY VISITOR PROGRAM *(serving Garfield and Pitkin counties, and the Basalt/El Jebel area of Eagle County)*

The home visitation program works to increase Latino immigrants' ability to access education, health and related human services. In partnership with Colorado West Counseling Services, the program helps enhance family functioning by improving relationships, support systems and problem-solving skills. Families are screened for mental health needs and receive appropriate treatment if needed. Also, culturally and linguistically appropriate parent and child development education resources are available to families.

SAUNDRA SWANSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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FOCUS POINTS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER *(serving the metropolitan Denver area)*

The center offers bilingual, bicultural family advocacy and support services to Spanish-speaking families with young children. Services offered at both the center and in families' homes include early childhood education, parenting classes and adult education, including ESL, literacy and GED coaching. The center's home visitors train parents, staff and neighborhood teachers in children's mental health and behavioral issues and provide mental health counseling to individuals and families.

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HMONG AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO *(serving the metropolitan Denver area)*

The association is working to address issues faced by Hmong people, including language barriers, mistrust of western health service providers, cultural and generational gaps and their strong belief in folk medicine. The association – which includes clans, churches and businesses – also is working to promote greater trust and awareness between health providers and the Hmong community. The organization offers mental health training to health care providers.

PANG HER, MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR

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**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE** *(serving the metropolitan Denver area)*

Jewish Family Service is facilitating the psychological adjustment of refugee and immigrant students through school-based, bilingual counseling. Offered at South High School and Merrill Middle School, the program also educates teachers, staff, parents and students on issues that refugee and immigrant adolescents face. The program works to promote parental involvement in the school system and educates parents of refugees and immigrants about the issues their children are confronting.

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MUSLIM WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND THE FAITH COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM OF FINDTHEGOOD.ORG

(serving the metropolitan Denver area, Fort Collins and Colorado Springs)

The Muslim Circles for Family Support develops groups that offer support, resources and a better understanding of nonviolent faith beliefs to immigrants experiencing the stress of relocation, language differences and limited income. Together, the partners encourage family violence prevention activities that are based on faith beliefs.

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PLAN DE SALUD DEL VALLE, INC. *(serving Adams, Boulder, Larimer, Morgan and Weld counties)*

A network comprised of community and migrant health centers, Salud offers training and education to immigrants and mental health providers. The network is working to improve immigrants' access to mental health services by increasing the ability of providers to offer services.

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN SURVIVOR'S CENTER *(serving Colorado statewide)*

The center assists survivors of torture and war trauma, and their families, to create a new future through counseling and support services. The center also provides training and education to personnel from other agencies that assist immigrants and refugees who have survived torture and war trauma. Of the center's clients, approximately one-third are survivors of war trauma and two-thirds have survived torture.

PAUL STEIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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RURAL COMMUNITIES RESOURCE CENTER *(serving Washington and Yuma counties)*

The center provides community advocacy to promote positive mental health and cultural adjustment in the immigrant Mexican community. In collaboration with the Federal Rural Health Outreach Grant partners, the center offers leadership development services, peer support and increased access to community resources.

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SAN LUIS VALLEY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES' IMMIGRANT RESOURCE CENTER *(serving Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache counties)*

The Immigrant Resource Center provides immigrants with assistance and advocacy services and works to facilitate cultural adjustment through skill-building and peer support. The center has expanded its programs to include education and outreach components. New services at the center include an English as a Second Language program, after-school tutoring and a program to increase the abilities of community volunteers.

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SERVICIOS DE LA RAZA, INC. *(serving the metropolitan Denver area)*

Servicios provides psychiatric examinations, medication prescriptions and individual and family therapy to Mexican immigrants. The agency also advocates for comprehensive, culturally proficient human services for the Latino and Spanish-speaking communities of metropolitan Denver.

JOSE MONDRAGON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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ST. MARY'S FAMILY PRACTICE RESIDENCY *(serving Mesa County)*

Using promotoras – outreach service workers – the program is enhancing immigrant access to mental health counseling and support and creating educational opportunities for migrant farm workers to further support and improve mental wellness. The residency program also works to educate the community about available services.

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SUMMIT COUNTY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER *(serving Summit County)*

The center coordinates family services – particularly mental health services – for Latino, East African and Eastern European individuals and families, and offers immigrant youth internship opportunities and a peer support network. Through a partnership with the Colorado Work Force Center, the center also provides employee-employer mediation, support and advocacy.

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VIETNAMESE ELDERLY ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO *(serving Adams, Arapahoe, Denver and Jefferson counties)*

The association offers services designed to help older Vietnamese (55+) adjust to life in the United States and live as independently as possible. To reduce isolation and alleviate depression, the association offers “tea and conversation” sessions and assistance accessing available services in metro Denver. The association provides refugees and immigrants with social contact, networking, support groups, English as a Second Language classes, life skill training and cultural orientation.

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