



**Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families Initiative  
Immigrant Integration  
The Colorado Trust**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**What is The Colorado Trust?**

The Colorado Trust is a private grantmaking foundation dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of the people of Colorado. The foundation develops long-term initiatives that are responsive to the needs of communities. Each initiative addresses different aspects of The Trust's two goals – advancing accessible and affordable health care, and providing resources to strengthen families. Through a competitive request for proposals process, grantees are selected to conduct the work of each initiative. (Read more about The Colorado Trust, its history, style of grantmaking, mission and goals.)

**What is the Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families Initiative?**

The Trust's Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families Initiative provides funding to 19 Colorado communities in their efforts to support immigrants and “established” residents in working together for strong, healthy communities. While each of the communities has developed a plan to address the unique challenges and opportunities it faces in respect to an increasing immigrant population, all participating communities are dedicated to a “two-way street” process that encourages adaptations both on the part of immigrants and on the part of the receiving community where the immigrants now live. For example, an adaptation on the part of an immigrant may be learning a new language, and an adaptation for a receiving community could mean ensuring that health care providers take culture into consideration when treating patients.

**What is immigrant integration?**

Coming here from another country and learning a new way of life is a highly individualized process during which an immigrant both keeps and sheds some elements of his or her previous culture and adopts elements of the mainstream culture. Immigrants and members of the established community both have roles to play in this process. Immigrants commit to building a life here, learning the language, contributing as soon and fully as possible in civic life, and adapting to a new lifestyle without losing their own identity or rejecting their past. Members of the established community come to know and build relationships with new residents, and offer immigrants opportunities to participate in their new community.

**Why is The Colorado Trust funding this effort?**

Like many other states across the country, Colorado's immigrant population has increased over the last decade. Through on-going scanning of issues of health and well-being across Colorado, The Trust learned that there are a number of unmet needs of immigrants. For example, when people from other countries relocate here they face challenges in trying to find health care, understanding a new school system and even in basic communication with their new neighbors. At the same time, established residents may have concerns about not connecting with immigrants who are now their neighbors, and the resulting isolation in their communities. The Trust's initiative supports communities' efforts to address these issues in ways that fit their unique communities.

**What are the grantee communities doing to help integrate immigrants?**

Across the ten grantee communities, people are working together to provide a sense of belonging in their communities, including opportunities for all residents to enjoy civic engagement and economic success. Individually, each community has developed a plan tailored to its specific needs, including such things as strengthening local health care providers' ability to offer competent care to people from different cultures, helping immigrant parents to become more involved in their children's schools and helping immigrants better access English classes.

**What is The Colorado Trust's position on immigration policy?**

The Colorado Trust does not lobby or advocate on immigration policy or reform issues – that is the purview of the federal government. Our work is to advance the health and well-being of the people who live in Colorado.

**Are Colorado Trust funds being used to aid illegal immigration?**

No.