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

Community: Aspen-Parachute Region (Pitkin, Garfield and Eagle counties)
Year Started: 2006
Service Area: ~129,394
Contacts: Community Integration Initiative (CII)
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Focus Areas
Education and training.

Project Description
- Training for Multicultural Care – Toolkits to Promote Cultural Proficiency: Offered in partnership with the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, these trainings address health disparities and cultural proficiency. Participants report an increased knowledge of different cultures and ways to approach culturally diverse audiences.
- Mini-Grants: To encourage activities and events that increase and improve communication between established and immigrant communities, CII awards mini-grants to local organizations and schools.
- Immigrant Stories: KDNK Community Radio records and broadcasts the personal stories of immigrants in the region. Stories are aired locally to foster communication and understanding of immigrants’ past and present.
- Food for Thought: Initially filmed for CII by Access Roaring Fork in 2006, this series features immigrant families with established families learning about each other’s cultures as they prepare and share a meal. The films are viewable on the CII website, www.communityintegration.net.
- Information Centers: Easily accessible information kiosks in local communities display information – in both Spanish and English – on topics that immigrants have identified as helpful to orient newcomers to the region: health care, transportation, laws and regulations, immigration (citizenship and visas), education, social services, housing, employment, child care, banking and recreational activities.
- Community Organizing: In partnership with Congregations and Schools Empowered (CASE), CII works to encourage community dialogue by recruiting and training community organizers from within the immigrant population. CASE leaders and community organizers have met individually with hundreds of residents, elected officials, nonprofit leaders and educators to learn more about the needs of the Aspen-Parachute community.
- Orientation Guide on Living in the Aspen-Parachute Region: This guide for newcomers provides information and resources about general laws, social, medical and environmental expectations of the community.