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

Community: El Paso County
Year Started: 2005
Population: ~617,315
Contact: Pikes Peak Immigrant and Refugee Collaborative (PPIRC)
Tricia Waters, Director
Phone: 719-389-6595; E-mail: TWaters@ColoradoCollege.edu
Colorado College, Partnership for Civic Engagement
1018 North Weber Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Focus Areas
Community and leadership • Education and training • Immigrant resource center • Information and materials • Multicultural activities • Workforce and economic development

Project Description
- “Know Your Rights” Legal Education Workshops: These monthly workshops – facilitated by a member of the Colorado State Public Defender’s office – help immigrants to gain a better understanding of the law and their rights. The PPIRC also provides educational, developmental and research support to Catholic Charities of Colorado Springs in their efforts to provide family immigration and naturalization legal services.
- Immigrant Leadership Program: This ongoing, community-based program engages a core group of immigrants on projects that develop and strengthen their leadership skills.
- Community Cultural Exchange: As a member of the Colorado Springs Diversity Forum, PPIRC works with business and community leaders to organize community events that highlight cultural exchange, and collaborates with the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Colorado Springs to host an annual diversity festival.
- Dialogue Circles: Using a curriculum developed by the Study Circles Resource Center, PPIRC coordinates a series of dialogue circles among a variety of participants – including immigrants and refugees, law enforcement, business leaders, educators and students. The circles promote improved communication and pave the way for increased networking as community participants begin to work together outside of the dialogues.
- Community Outreach: A series of educational presentations to local businesses, Parent Teacher Associations and Head Start help increase awareness of community services that are available to local immigrants.