Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families

Supporting residents in working together for healthy communities

Community: Morgan County
Year Started: 2005
Population: ~29,835
Contacts: OneMorgan County
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Focus Areas
Community and leadership • Education and training • Health • Information and materials • Multicultural activities • Neighborhood watch • Workforce and economic development

Project Description

- **Sharing Community Information:** To increase awareness about immigrant issues, and assist immigrants and refugees in navigating a variety of community services, OneMorgan County provides information and workshops on law enforcement, education, employment, housing and health services. In collaboration with Citizenship Information Services and the Fort Morgan Police Department, OneMorgan County also helps immigrants gain a better understanding of the law and their rights.

- **Translation and Interpretation Assistance:** At various workshops for immigrants and refugees, oral and written translation and interpretation services are provided for Somali and Spanish speakers. Additionally, OneMorgan County has worked with the Fort Morgan School District to translate school correspondence into the primary languages of refugee parents; as well, brochures at Fort Morgan Public Library are being translated into Somali, and a local bank is offering bilingual services to the immigrant and refugee community.

- **Immigrant and Refugee Panel Discussions:** To provide opportunities for residents to broaden their understanding of Somali history, religion and culture, this effort comprises presentations and Q&A.

- **Parent Engagement:** To increase parent involvement, OneMorgan County works with the school district to provide opportunities for parents to ask questions and receive support from bilingual (Spanish-English) community leaders who are familiar with school-related issues. OneMorgan County also donates multicultural books to all public schools in the area.

Results

Since its inception, OneMorgan County has become a central resource for immigrants and refugees, as well as various governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions – including school districts, hospitals and clinics, and the Department of Human Services, among others. Morgan County residents now have access to a variety of workshops that provide information about housing, the U.S. health care system, summer activities for children and youth, and other community resources for newcomers.