

Immigration—what have we accomplished in the last year?

Issues Raised include:

1. Proper and Adequate intake—comprehensive
2. There is a lot of confusion about the 245l and there is misinformation in the media.
3. What kind of lawyer does an immigrant need to go to?
4. Most people need a better understanding of the limits under the law.
5. There needs to be more information in communities about the process and availability of work visas and green cards.
6. Communities need to begin conversations with law enforcement—a dialogue.
7. There are issues of legal compliance with federal law requiring that organizations provided translation services for people with limited English skills (hospitals, schools, and others) that receive federal funds.
8. Can't get children to stay in high school and they don't see a positive future for themselves.
9. The Dream Act actually benefits the state—there is a need for lobbying (even by the children).
10. Lack of information for families about the legal issues, the law is complex and people don't have access to legal help or they don't seek it out.
11. Moniteau County needs to get better organized.

Projects last year include:

1. Adelante—a bilingual newspaper that is a collaboration with the University of Missouri School of Journalism. The paper has become better established and reaches a wide audience.
2. There was a "Know Your Rights" pamphlet published and is available on the Cambio de Colores website.
3. Alianzas has organized a forum to address drivers license issues.
4. A dialogue was begun with law enforcement regarding racial profiling.

5. Dissemination of profiling data.
6. In St. Louis a dialogue has begun with law enforcement around common issues from the perspective of how can we help each other.
7. In Sullivan County many new resources have been developed and they have done programs to help people become more aware of their rights.
8. In Marshalltown Iowa a video was developed called "Welcome to Our Town"

Immigration—where do we go from here?

Key Issues and Program Ideas

1. Latino vote campaign
2. In Milan they are organizing through the churches using newsletters/websites. They are translating these resources into Spanish.
3. In-Service training with law enforcement officials.
4. Find ways to "Humanize" immigration issues.
5. There is an issue of volunteering. Need people to get "involved" and help.
6. Training that "empowers" volunteers.
7. Need for a "Know Your Rights" pamphlet that can be distributed through schools and libraries.
8. Access to Spanish speaking attorneys in rural areas (this was expressed as important to southwest Missouri).
9. Access to Spanish speaking attorneys or those who have bilingual staff.
10. Create a system to do intakes in rural areas, coordinated with translation bureaus. Set-up appointments on designated days in underserved areas.
11. Need to enact a local dream act (similar to KS).
12. Drivers License initiative
13. Legislative advocacy involving youth.
14. Organizing/Networking

15. Voting

16. Naturalization process as a way to begin to build political power.

17. Election reform that makes the political process more accessible.