



Welcome

Welcome to Alianza NORCO's very first edition of our organizational Newsletter! As an immigrant-led, immigrant-focused non-profit organization, we strive to be a reliable source of information to our immigrant community of Northern Colorado.

In this issue, we celebrate the start of our attorney-led Immigration Legal Services, explain why this has been such an important goal to our organization, and make an important call to action! Help us continue advocating for the well-being and integration of our immigrant community in Fort Collins!



The Alianza Team at lunch on 08/12/2022 – Photography by Atlas Ojendiz

Latest News



Jacob Dunn at Alianza's weekly legal cases revision meeting
Photography by Atlas Ojendiz

We now offer legal services!

Our long-term foundational goal of bringing low-cost and pro-bono immigration legal services to our region is now a reality!!

This month we are kicking off with news about our immigration legal services program. Alianza NORCO is now officially offering legal assistance to those looking to explore their options in immigration cases. These services are offered pro-bono for individuals who are eligible under our grants or at a low-cost for others.

Finding out whether you are eligible has never been easier. Give us a call at 970-703-3945 and we will schedule a Brief Advice meeting with our Immigration Lawyer, Jacob Dunn. At this meeting, you can discuss your situation and find out if you are eligible for assistance.

Patricia Miller, Founder and Executive Director of Alianza NORCO stated, "We feel a great sense of responsibility, joy, and gratefulness to all of you who helped us in our Legal Defense Fund(LDF) advocacy in 2020 and 2021. Our immigrant community members have always needed pro-bono and low cost immigration legal services in this region. Alianza's founding leaders named this need years ago and have never stopped working for its fulfillment. Our work continues, and we hope you will all join us in continuing advocacy for LDF and immigration reform."



Events



A Better Tomorrow



Latinx and Hispanic Heritage Month Sep 15 - Oct 15

Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation

We celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month to honor the accomplishments and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have brought about change and inspired others to success. President Lyndon B. Johnson established Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, and President Ronald Reagan expanded it to a 30-day period in 1988. On August 17, 1988, it was signed into law. We invite you to take a moment to recognize the legacy of our Latinx and Hispanic community: hispanicheritagemoth.gov

What unites us as Latinx and Hispanic people across time, traditions, and locations is our common *lucha*: our struggle to seek a safe place for ourselves and our families. In Fort Collins, we stand on the shoulders of great Latinx and Hispanic settlers as we advocate for the city to establish a permanent Legal Fund that supports and empowers immigrant residents who are seeking legal help with their immigration-related cases.



Our Work

How immigration legal assistance became a foundational goal

Alianza NORCO was started in April of 2017. As an immigrant herself, founder Patricia Miller understood some of the challenges that her community was facing in an increasingly anti-immigrant political environment. She brought together a grassroots group of immigrant Latinas and allies who jointly identified immigration legal services, driver's license navigation, and immigration law reform as critical needs in the immigrant community of Northern Colorado. In October 2018, Alianza NORCO became a 501(c)(3).

In 2020 and 2021, we formed a regional coalition of immigrant-centered organizations to advocate to establish a City of Fort Collins Immigration Legal Defense Fund (LDF) to increase legal services for immigrants in our city. We sought to remove a major barrier to justice in our nation: the lack of affordable legal services and due process for immigrant communities. Thousands of people, including children and babies, have been detained or forced to face the complex immigration system alone, without legal representation or due process. The negative impacts of this are severe and have been well documented.

What's Next?

We have more work to do to ensure that this 18-month fund becomes a permanent part of our city's budget, while at the same time, delivering a legal services program that serves as many of our immigrant community members as possible.

Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN), Interfaith Sanctuary and Accompaniment Coalition (ISAAC), and Alianza NORCO have cumulatively served or are now serving 109 immigrant community members.

We have proven the effectiveness of a city sponsored Immigration Legal Defense Fund, and we are now advocating for immigration legal services to become a permanent part of the City of Fort Collins' immigrant integration efforts. These efforts play a major part of enacting the city's stated diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) goals.



Immigrants with legal representation are 10 times more likely to be able to stay in the US. It is because of this that we advocated for the City of Fort Collins to do what 42 other municipalities in 18 states have done: provide funds for legal representation and due process for immigrants in our community. We are very proud that in July 2021, our City Council approved a \$150,000 immigration legal services fund as an 18 month **pilot program until December 2022!**

We are part of a larger movement for the federal government to provide public defense for every person in the immigration system. Until that day, cities like Fort Collins and Denver have taken action to ensure that we do not lose another head of household, farm worker, or essential worker.

It is not enough to speak about the importance of DEI, we call on the city to act upon their stated desire to be a welcoming community for all, in part by approving a budget for an Immigration Legal Fund.

If you would like to be part of this advocacy, we will offer training to volunteers to develop your stories, understand our shared values, and increase our political understanding. We will meet with members of City Council and advocate together for a permanent LDF in Fort Collins.

SIGN UP HERE:
[HTTPS://ALIANZANORCO.ORG/EN/CONTACT/](https://alianzanorco.org/en/contact/)





Volunteer Opportunities



Keep Busy Within Your Community.

As a non-profit we rely on our wonderful volunteers and we are always happy to welcome you into our bilingual, multicultural office! We have various volunteer opportunities for monolingual and bilingual people:

1. Join our Fort Collins LDF advocacy team
2. Get to know our clients through front office work
3. Accompany clients to licensing appointments
4. Party plan with our Fundraising team
5. Research and write with our Development team
6. Use your Quickbook skills in our Finance team

To register with us, visit our webpage at: <https://alianzanorco.org/en/contact/>

Community Resources



242 Conifer Street Fort Collins, CO 80524
(970) 658-9878

Info@HomewardAlliance.org
InfoenEspanol@HomewardAlliance.org

Mental Health - Latinx Community
116 East Oak Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524
Tel. 970.232.0740
Hola@LaCocinaHome.org



El Nidito Early Childhood Program at The Family Center/La Familia - Fort Collins CO Child Care Center
309 Hickory St #5, Fort Collins CO 80524
(970) 221-1615

Domestic Violence Help
Address: 421 Parker St, Fort Collins, CO 80525, United States
Phone: +1 970 530 2353



ITIN Card: Greysi Nina - 970-988-2823



LEGAL



01

Legal Services

In fiscal year 2021-22, we laid the groundwork for our brand new Immigration Legal Services Program, which is headed by Immigration Attorney Jacob Dunn! We provide in-person and virtual Brief Advice meetings to immigrants and their families. They receive advice on their legal options and can become clients if they qualify for an immigration benefit.

LICENSES

Driver's Licenses SB13-251

This fiscal year we helped 631 people with their Driver's License issues! Our navigation includes helping to verify and apply for the documents our immigrant community will need for their initial DMV appointments, as well as helping with renewals.



02

ADVOCACY



03

Advocacy

Our team advocated for local and regional legal defense funds, improved services for immigrants at the DMV, and for HB22-1287 at the state level. Our advocacy efforts for issues that affect our immigrant community continue - join us at <https://alianzanorco.org/en/contact/>

NOTARY

Notary Services

Bilingual Notaries are a valuable resource to our immigrant community and we are fortunate enough to have one in our office. This passed year we helped a total of 49 clients notarize necessary documents for them to be able to attain their driver's licenses (in the past 5 months).



04

FINANCIAL AID



05

Direct Aid and Financial Assistance

We successfully provided valuable referrals and direct Rent Assistance to our clients this fiscal year. Our direct assistance totaled \$30,500 in grant funds.