

## **Challenges of Multicultural Evaluation with Immigrant and Refugee Families**

### **Presenter(s):**

Dora G Lodwick, REFT Institute Inc, [dora@reft.org](mailto:dora@reft.org)

Stephen O Stewart, Public Education and Business Coalition, [sstewart@pebc.org](mailto:sstewart@pebc.org)

Soo-Jin Yoon, The Colorado Trust, [soo-jin@coloradotrust.org](mailto:soo-jin@coloradotrust.org)

Alexandra Mitchell, REFT Institute Inc, [alex@reft.org](mailto:alex@reft.org)

**Abstract:** The Colorado Trust foundation's Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families Initiative made mental health and acculturation services available to immigrants and refugees by funding three-year programs averaging \$65,000 annually. In 2001-2002, 23 grants were awarded. The grantees varied in location, experience, size and focus. Ethnic groups represented included Laotian Hmong, Vietnamese, Guatemalan Q'anjob'al, Bosnian, Russian, north African Arabs, Ethiopians, Koreans and others, though most were Spanish-speaking Mexicans. The Trust wanted an outcome evaluation based on immigrant and refugees experiences, but became aware of the difficulties in developing reliable multilingual, multicultural individual level data. The Trust therefore requested an evaluation feasibility study (1) to determine the feasibility of conducting an outcome evaluation at the individual level, and (2) what the requirements and strategies of such an evaluation might be. The feasibility results and follow-up strategies will be presented.