



Great Grants and Initiatives

Grantor: Rose Community Foundation

Grantee or Initiative: Latino Community Foundation of Colorado

Amount: \$80,000 Period of Grant Award: 2006-2008

The Latino Community Foundation of Colorado (LCFC) was formed in 2006 and publically launched in 2007 as an innovative approach to increase philanthropy in the Latino community, a community new to organized philanthropy, and to increase the capacity of Latino nonprofits, by providing capacity building grants and training to nonprofits. LCFC was a natural extension of Rose Community Foundation's participation with The Colorado Funders' Collaborative for Strong Latino Communities from 2000-2006. This collaborative, part of a national effort by Hispanics in Philanthropy (HIP), was made up of 8 local foundations contributing \$600,000 to improve the work of nonprofits serving Latino populations. These funds were doubled by matching dollars from national foundations. The Collaborative was designed to sustain and ensure the viability of the Latino nonprofit sector and develop Latino nonprofit leaders.

During the six years of work, a vision began to form among the Latino nonprofit and philanthropic community: that one day there would be an effort to engage individual Latino donors to establish a long-term sustainable funding source for the Latino community. To support that vision, in September 2006 Rose Community Foundation entered into an MOU with HIP through a pilot called Giving Partnerships for Strong Latino Communities. Only two sites were selected by HIP for this pilot: Colorado and Westchester, NY. The goal of this new initiative was to expand the amount, impact and leverage of individual giving to support and strengthen the Latino community. HIP provided access to \$500,000 in matching grant funds (matching had to be raised from individual Latino donors at \$25,000 each). At the same time, Rose Community Foundation secured grants for operating expenses from The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation and the Western Union Foundation. During 2006-2007, an Initiative Manager was hired and a series of meetings with local Latino business and community leaders were convened to gauge interest and encourage participation. By 2008, 16 founding donors committed a total of \$400,000, and the final four prospective donors have been cultivated.