

Program Highlights

Palm Beach County, Florida

Reaching Maya Youth and Families with HIV/AIDS Education

The School District of Palm Beach County has established a partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach Maya Ministry to provide HIV prevention information to Guatemalan Maya youth living in Palm Beach County. The Maya community is at higher risk for HIV infection because they live in an area of the county that is disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS, and outreach is especially difficult due to issues of literacy, language, and culture. By establishing a partnership with the Maya Ministry, the project was able to reach Maya youth and their families with HIV prevention information in Q'anjob'al, the most common spoken language among immigrant Maya. Translations have also been produced in the Maya languages of Mam and Akateko. Thus far, 25 pueblo leaders have been trained as HIV prevention education instructors, and more than 1,000 Maya youth and families have received HIV prevention education. In addition, the Diocese of Florida has appointed an HIV Educator to each Catholic Church in Palm Beach County.