

NORTH SHORE ADULT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

I. Regional Adult Basic Education Partnership:

The North Shore Adult Education Partnership is a group founded by North Shore Community Action Programs (NSCAP), North Shore Community College and Training Resources of America that works to support and expand adult basic education, including English for speakers of other languages and job training on the North Shore area. Its mission is to provide each and every adult with the opportunities to develop literacy skills needed to qualify for further education, job training and better employment and to reach his/her full potential as a family member, productive worker and citizen.

II. Types of information the partnership is collecting to address education and training issues:

- ✓ Current amounts of people enrolled in Adult Basic Education (ABE)/GED and English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) programs offered by the Partnership's members
 - In 2008, 27.2% of North Shore adults students are American born, while 72.8% are immigrants
 - The largest immigrant groups enrolled in adult programs are Dominican (17.9%), Brazilian (15.4%) and Albanian (9.3%). Nineteen (19) other nationalities were reported.
- ✓ Growth of non-English speaking population and general immigration numbers
 - Immigrants account for 14.1% (1 in 7) of the entire population in MA
 - Without continued immigration, MA may lose a congressional seat in 2010
 - Immigrant Population Projection 2025: If the current rate of growth among the immigrant population continues, the immigrant population will be 21% (875,000) over the 2000 population.
- ✓ FY2008 Adult Basic Education Fact list put out by MA Coalition for Adult Ed.
- ✓ Adult Basic Education (ABE) State Budgets and Availability of Funding
 - 40% of adults who try to enroll in ABE each year cannot enroll because there are inadequate resources to fund needed programming (*MA Dept of Ed. 2007*)
 - Approx. 24,000 adults are currently on waiting lists for ABE programs as funded by the MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education due to inadequate funding (*MA Coalition for Adult Education data*)
 - Waiting lists vary from 2 to 8 months for ABE programs and from 3 months to 2 years for English for Speakers of Other Languages (*MA Coalition for Adult Education data*)
- ✓ Trends in the Workforce
 - Between 2003-2005 the MA labor force contracted by 1.7%. MA was the only state in the nation to decline each year during this time period. Meanwhile, the nation's labor force expanded by 3.1%
 - From 2000-2005 MA lost on net 233,000 residents to other states. In relative terms, the state lost 3.6% of its 2000 population.

- ✓ Local high school drop rates
 - Higher among children of immigrant families
 - Higher among boys
- ✓ English Proficiency among school aged children on the North Shore
 - Data from the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education shows the % of students (all grades) whose first language is not English has dramatically increased in Peabody while Salem has stayed at a high level. Beverly and Danvers are relatively unchanged.
- ✓ Local school aged children that are homeless, living in shelters and in motels
- ✓ Rates of drug abuse and addiction among people 18 years of age or younger
 - Dramatic increase has been documented on the North Shore, including in Peabody.
- ✓ Employment rates Among the Foreign Born Populations of MA by English-Speaking Proficiency (*Commonwealth Corp. Research and Eval. Brief 2006*):
 - Person that does NOT Speak English At All - 45% employment rate
 - Person that does not Speak English Well - 54% employment rate
 - Person that Speaks English Well - 69% employment rate
 - Person that Speaks English Very Well - 72% employment rate
 - Person that Only Speaks English - 62% employment rate
 - All people - 64% employment rate

III. Organizations Represented at the Partnership's 2nd Annual Forum (5/14/08)

Training Resources of America	Commonwealth Corporation
North Shore Community Action Programs	Beverly Bootstraps
North Shore Community College	North Shore Career Center
Salem State College	North Shore Workforce Investment Board
Citizens for Adequate Housing	NE SABES
Salem Harbor CDC	Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Ed.
ECCO	(DESE -formerly DOE)
Catholic Charities	JRA
Beverly High School	ACLS/ESE

IV. Elected Officials Represented and/or Present at last forum:

Congressman John Tierney
 Senator Fred Berry
 State Representative Mary Grant
 State Representative Steven Walsh

VI. Sample Feedback from Forum held on May 14th:

- ✓ Immigration:
 - Need to understand immigration/naturalization process better
 - Need for increased funding for English language and Adult Basic Education programs to tackle long waiting lists
 - Need to address service gaps, drop out rates and pre-college preparation
- ✓ At Risk-Youth:
 - How are new learning models helping address the achievement gap between girls and boys?

- How do we address the social issues of at risk youth that get in the way of their progress in education?
- Can we influence in any way the GED to incorporate, integrate workforce skills as part of its content?
- ✓ Self-Sufficiency:
 - What is the current self-sufficiency wages for the North Shore?
 - Need for the Adult Basic Education programs on the North Shore to work together with business and industry sector.
 - Need for more and better dissemination of information about services on the North Shore.

VII. Contact Information:

To learn more about the **North Shore Adult Education Partnership** and its work, please contact: Beth Hogan, Executive Director at NSCAP. Tel: (978) 531-0767 ext. 101 or email her at bhogan4079@aol.com. To learn more about NSCAP visit: www.nscap.org