



## Immigrants and WIOA Services

### Comparison of Sociodemographic Characteristics of Native- and Foreign-Born Adults in Illinois

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This fact sheet provides a profile of key characteristics of foreign-born and native-born residents of the state of Illinois that are relevant to understanding needs for adult education and workforce training services. It is part of a larger series of state and county fact sheets produced by the Migration Policy Institute's (MPI) National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy to support equitable implementation of the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA), as well as consideration of other policy and funding initiatives to promote the successful linguistic, economic, and civic integration of immigrants and refugees who have settled in the United States.

The estimates provided are based on MPI analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) data pooled over the 2009-13 period in order to provide the most detailed sociodemographic portrait possible of residents' characteristics. Mirroring the design of federal adult education and workforce training program rules, data are provided for those ages 16 and over.

#### 1) Nativity, Age, and Origin of Illinois Residents

As of 2009-13, Illinois was home to more than 10.1 million residents ages 16 and older; nearly 1.7 million of whom, or 17 percent, were foreign born. Relatively fewer of Illinois' foreign-born individuals are ages 16-18 or ages 19-24 as compared to its native-born residents; rather, they are more likely to be in their prime working years, with 71 percent falling in the 25-to-44 and 45-to-59 age bands (compared to 59 percent of those who are native born). Of particular note are the 45 percent of foreign-born individuals who are 25 to 44 years old, a group that will continue to play a key role in the state's labor force for several decades to come. Given their generally younger profile, it is not surprising that the state's foreign born are also less likely than the native born to be over 60 (19 percent versus 24 percent).

Only 47 percent of the state's immigrant residents ages 16 and over hail from Latin America, as compared to 53 percent nationwide; 26 percent are of Asian origin—similar to the 28 percent share nationally; and 22 percent are European, significantly higher than the national share of 13 percent.

**Relevance for WIOA Implementation:** Provisions of WIOA's Title I address the country's three primary workforce training programs (youth, adult, and dislocated worker), target subpopulations within them (e.g. out-of-school youth ages 16 to 24), and the nature of services to be provided through them. Title II of the law—Adult Education and Literacy (commonly referred to as the *Adult Education and Family Literacy Act*, or AEFLA)—provides the national framework for services designed to build the basic skills of adults who lack a

**Table 1. Age, Gender, and Origin of the Illinois Population (ages 16 and older), by Nativity, 2009-13**

	Total		Native Born		Foreign Born	
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total population ages 16 and over	10,145,000	8,453,000	100%	1,692,000	100%	
<b>Age Groups</b>						
16 to 18	549,000	513,000	6%	37,000	2%	
19 to 24	1,078,000	953,000	11%	125,000	7%	
25 to 44	3,501,000	2,736,000	32%	765,000	45%	
45 to 59	2,663,000	2,224,000	26%	439,000	26%	
60 and over	2,353,000	2,027,000	24%	326,000	19%	
<b>Gender</b>						
Female	5,221,000	4,380,000	52%	842,000	50%	
<b>Regions of Birth (excluding birth at sea and unspecified countries)</b>						
Africa	X	X	X	49,000	3%	
Asia	X	X	X	447,000	26%	
Europe	X	X	X	379,000	22%	
Latin America	X	X	X	797,000	47%	
Northern America	X	X	X	16,000	1%	
Oceania	X	X	X	3,000	0%	

Notes: Latin America includes South America, Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean; Northern America includes Canada, Bermuda, Greenland, and St. Pierre and Miquelon. All numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand; calculations in the text use absolute numbers.

Source: Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the pooled 2009-13 American Community Survey (ACS).

high school diploma or equivalent or who are Limited English Proficient (LEP). States and localities must ensure that eligible populations are given equitable access to information and services provided under the law in order not to run afoul of federal civil-rights and antidiscrimination provisions. This includes, for example, ensuring that language barriers do not impede access to information and services provided by American Job Centers (formerly known as One-Stop Career Centers) through which states and localities organize local access to WIOA-funded services. Given the highly diverse nature of its foreign-born population (and their range of educational backgrounds and levels of English proficiency—as described below), those engaged in implementing WIOA in Illinois face complex challenges in ensuring that the state’s large and diverse immigrant population has equitable access to services provided under the law.

## 2) Educational Attainment

Foreign-born young adults represent about 7 percent of the state’s 16-to-18-year-old population; however, they comprise 13 percent of the state’s out-of-school youth in this age range, and are almost twice as likely to lack a high school diploma or equivalent (HSD/E) and not be enrolled in school as their native-born peers. Similarly, immigrant young adults are 12 percent of the state’s 19-to-24-year-olds but are more than twice as likely as native-born peers to lack a HSD/E, comprising nearly one-quarter of state residents in this age range who have not obtained a HSD/E. Further, foreign-born young adults who lack a HSD/E are significantly less likely than their native-born peers to be enrolled in school (12 percent versus 22 percent). Finally, among those not enrolled in school, foreign-born young adults are far more likely than the native born to be

working (58 percent versus 27 percent).

Foreign-born individuals account for 18 percent of Illinois residents ages 25 and older; they are more than three times more likely than native-born peers to lack a HSD/E, accounting for 42 percent of adults in this age group who have not completed high school. At the other end of the education spectrum, they are only slightly less likely than native-born adults to hold a bachelor's degree or higher (29 percent versus 32 percent).

**Relevance for WIOA Implementation:** Out-of-school youth are a primary focus of WIOA's Title I workforce services, and adults who lack a HSD/E are targets for both Title I and Title II services. Given that foreign-born individuals are significantly over-represented among those with no HSD/E in the three age bands, services

created with these funds should be targeted in equitable measure to meet their needs. This will represent a shift for systems that heretofore have not prioritized those with basic skills needs (whether native- or foreign born) for workforce training services, and/or whose service design is largely sequential—i.e. expecting adults to complete basic skills requirements before gaining access to workforce training programs. At the same time, provisions in the law that promote the use of career pathway service designs for serving WIOA clients pose significant capacity-building challenges for the state, given the difficulties many such pathway programs face in equitably serving adults with basic skills needs.<sup>1</sup> Integrated education and training models must also comply with immigration status restrictions placed on Title I-funded programs.<sup>2</sup> However, while those who lack work authorization are not eligible for WIOA-funded

**Table 2. Educational Attainment of Illinois Residents (ages 16 and older), by Nativity, 2009-13**

Educational Attainment	Total	Native Born		Foreign Born	
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population ages 16 to 18	549,000	513,000	100%	37,000	100%
Not enrolled and no high school diploma or equivalent	21,000	18,000	4%	3,000	7%
Population ages 19 to 24	1,078,000	953,000	100%	125,000	100%
With at least high school diploma or equivalent	970,000	870,000	91%	100,000	80%
Without high school diploma or equivalent	108,000	83,000	9%	26,000	20%
Enrolled in school	22,000	19,000	22%	3,000	12%
Not enrolled in school and not employed	50,000	42,000	51%	8,000	30%
Not enrolled in school and employed	37,000	22,000	27%	15,000	58%
Population ages 25 and older	8,517,000	6,987,000	100%	1,530,000	100%
Less than high school diploma or equivalent	1,089,000	634,000	9%	455,000	30%
High school diploma or equivalent	2,332,000	1,960,000	28%	372,000	24%
Some college or associate's degree	2,438,000	2,176,000	31%	262,000	17%
Bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree	2,658,000	2,217,000	32%	442,000	29%
Foreign college-educated	X	X	X	245,000	56%

Note: All numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand; calculations in the text use absolute numbers.

Source: MPI analysis of pooled 2009-13 ACS.

workforce services, all refugees and the majority of Illinois immigrants legally reside in the United States and are therefore eligible for Title I as well as Title II services, which are not subject to immigration status restrictions.<sup>3</sup>

Finally, the analysis also shows that immigrants under age 25 who lack a HSD/E are far more likely than their native-born counterparts to be employed and not enrolled in school. This points to a need for education and training services designed for “nontraditional” students—i.e., in addition to using appropriate instructional designs, programs should anticipate the needs of part-time students, the demands of their work schedules, and transportation issues or other constraints they may face in attending and completing more traditionally structured programs.

### 3) Limited English Proficiency and Educational Attainment

Estimates of limited English proficiency among Illinois residents are provided below given the relevance of LEP status<sup>4</sup> for access to WIOA-funded services—e.g., English Language Acquisition services (formerly known as English-as-a-Second-Language or ESL) are a key element of AEFLA services, while adult English learners meet the “priority” definition for adult workforce services.<sup>5</sup> Table 3 also provides individuals’ LEP status crossed with levels of educational attainment, in order to inform the efforts of state and local planners to provide education and training services that equitably meet the needs of LEP individuals with different levels of formal education.

Not surprisingly, foreign-born individuals account for 90 percent of LEP residents in Illinois, with the 10 percent of native-born LEP individuals comprised largely of Spanish speakers.<sup>6</sup> The total number of LEP residents (1,033,000) is nearly as large as the total number of low-educated individuals ages 19

and older in the state (1.2 million). However, only adults with less than a high school education are counted in the formula used by the federal government to provide adult education funds to states.<sup>7</sup>

Among all LEP individuals ages 19 to 24 and ages 25 and older, 427,000 lack a HSD/E, indicating that 36 percent of the state’s low-educated adults are also LEP. Significant numbers of LEP individuals also have high levels of underlying education, including 270,000 of those ages 25 and older who have earned a high school diploma or equivalent, and an additional 271,000 who have either completed some college or an associate’s degree or who have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher.

**Relevance for WIOA Implementation:** Illinois’ large number of LEP individuals closely rivals its number of those who are low educated; each group is eligible for AEFLA services, which in recent years meet only about 4 percent of need nationally.<sup>8</sup> The state’s WIOA-funded adult education services are coordinated by the Illinois Community College Board, which has been a national leader in developing “bridge” programs for adult learners—so named because they are designed to bridge gaps between the skills of underprepared learners and the demands of credit-bearing postsecondary courses that provide preparation for jobs in well-paying, in-demand fields.<sup>9</sup> Though this program design aligns well with WIOA’s performance accountability measures, English proficiency and education requirements place these programs beyond the reach of many of the state’s LEP and low-educated adults. In addition, the state’s LEP residents include many who need AEFLA services but may not seek college degrees or face barriers in accessing college campuses—for example, immigrant mothers of young children seeking literacy and other programming that will help them support their children’s kindergarten readiness, or those seeking citizenship preparation services.

Stakeholders in WIOA’s implementation therefore face challenges in ensuring that local

service plans and the state’s Unified Plan provide both the range of AEFLA services envisioned under the law, and equitable access to Title I-funded services for low-educated and/or LEP individuals who are work-authorized. Given provisions in the law that target workforce services to those with basic skills needs, Illinois, like other states, has both new opportunities and a new obligation to serve LEP individuals with Title I funds—providing equitable access to those who are LEP and lack a HSD/E, and also the significant number of LEP individuals who have completed at least a high school diploma and are therefore posi-

tioned to directly access postsecondary training programs.

## 4) Brain Waste

“Brain waste”—the phrase used to describe when individuals with four-year college degrees or higher work in low-skilled jobs or are unemployed—is a particular concern for foreign-educated immigrants given the unique barriers they often face in attempting to transfer their education, training, and work experi-

**Table 3. Limited English Proficiency and Educational Attainment of Illinois Residents (ages 16 and older), by Nativity, 2009-13**

LEP Population by Educational Attainment	Total	Native Born		Foreign Born	
	Number	Number	Percent Native Born	Number	Percent Foreign Born
Total LEP population	1,033,000	104,000	10%	929,000	90%
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
LEP population ages 16 to 18	20,000	11,000	100%	9,000	24%
Not enrolled and no high school diploma or equivalent	2,000	-	-	2,000	66%
LEP population ages 19 to 24	65,000	14,000	100%	52,000	100%
With at least high school diploma or equivalent	45,000	12,000	86%	33,000	65%
Without high school diploma or equivalent	20,000	2,000	14%	18,000	35%
Enrolled in school	2,000	-	-	1,000	8%
Not enrolled in school and not employed	6,000	-	-	6,000	30%
Not enrolled in school and employed	12,000	-	-	11,000	62%
LEP population ages 25 and older	947,000	79,000	100%	868,000	100%
Less than high school diploma or equivalent	407,000	28,000	35%	379,000	44%
High school diploma or equivalent	270,000	22,000	27%	248,000	29%
Some college or associate's degree	126,000	16,000	20%	109,000	13%
Bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree	145,000	14,000	18%	131,000	15%

Notes: Limited English Proficient (LEP) refers to any person age 5 and older who reported speaking English less than “very well” as classified by the U.S. Census Bureau. All numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand; calculations in the text use absolute numbers.

Source: MPI analysis of pooled 2009-13 ACS.

**Table 4. Brain Waste among Illinois Residents (ages 25 and older), by Nativity, 2009-13**

Brain Waste	Native Born		Foreign Born	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total civilian, college-educated labor force	1,761,000	100%	335,000	100%
Underutilized (i.e., in low-skilled jobs or unemployed)	332,000	19%	87,000	26%

Note: All numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand; calculations in the text use absolute numbers.

Source: MPI analysis of pooled 2009-13 ACS.

ence to the U.S. labor market.<sup>10</sup> Fifty-six percent of foreign-born individuals in Illinois who possess a college degree or higher were educated abroad (see Table 2), indicating a significant share of the state’s highly educated immigrants and refugees is at risk for brain waste.

Data provided in Table 3 point to one of the most significant factors responsible for brain waste—limited English proficiency. Among foreign-born LEP individuals ages 25 and older, 131,000 (15 percent) have completed a bachelor’s degree or higher. Few adult education programs currently provide instruction that can help these individuals acquire the academic or professional-level English that will allow them to fully apply their education and training in the U.S. labor market.

In addition to difficulties accessing professional-level English classes, other factors that can contribute to brain waste include lack of recognition by employers or licensing bodies of academic or professional qualifications obtained abroad, difficulties in filling gaps in education or gaining U.S. work experience, steep and expensive barriers to gaining professional licenses, and/or poor understanding of U.S. job search norms. Table 4 provides estimates of brain waste among native-born and foreign-born residents of Illinois, showing one-fifth of all highly educated workers in the state are affected, with the high levels of education of the foreign born slightly more likely to be underutilized (26 percent versus 19 percent).

**Relevance for WIOA Implementation:** Highly educated individuals who are LEP fall into the “basic skills deficient” service priority category for Title I adult workforce services and also

qualify for AEFLA-funded services. Many of these individuals have degrees in the health-care, STEM, and education fields where their skills can be applied in high-demand occupations. Nimble workforce and adult education programs can help address the particular needs of these individuals by braiding funds across titles—or using strictly Title I funds—to help them return to jobs in their profession or a related field that will leverage the significant investments they have already made in their education and training.

## 5) Parents of Young Children

Parents of young children have long been a population of special focus for adult education and training programs due to the powerful role education and skills play in helping them provide economic stability for their family, and the predictive role of parental education—particularly the mother’s—for the future education success of their children. This focus is especially pertinent now, with policymakers at all levels of government engaged in intensive efforts to scale quality early childhood programs that will close gaps in school readiness that could otherwise threaten children’s lifelong education and career prospects. As their children’s first and most important teachers, parents are universally acknowledged as critical to the success of these efforts.

Though only 17 percent of the state’s overall population ages 16 and older, immigrants and refugees in Illinois account for 24 percent of parents residing with at least one child under age 18, and 26 percent of those with at least one

**Table 5. Family Structure and Young-Child Parental Status for Illinois Residents (ages 16 and older), by Nativity, 2009-13**

Parental Status	Total	Native Born		Foreign Born	
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Reside with at least one child under age 18	2,577,000	1,955,000	100%	622,000	100%
Single mother	447,000	386,000	20%	62,000	10%
Single father	130,000	104,000	5%	26,000	4%
Two parents	1,999,000	1,465,000	75%	534,000	86%
Reside with at least one child ages 0-8	1,516,000	1,120,000	100%	396,000	100%
Limited English Proficient (LEP)	235,000	14,000	1%	220,000	56%
Low-educated	179,000	68,000	6%	112,000	28%
Low-income (below 200% of FPL)	531,000	336,000	30%	195,000	49%

FPL = Federal poverty level.

Notes: Limited English Proficient (LEP) refers to any person age 5 and older who reported speaking English less than "very well" as classified by the U.S. Census Bureau. The federal poverty level (FPL), calculated based on total family income before taxes (excluding capital gains and noncash benefits such as food stamps), was \$23,834 for a family of four in 2013. All numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand; calculations in the text use absolute numbers.

Source: MPI analysis of pooled 2009-13 ACS.

child ages 0 to 8. Among parents residing with a child under age 18, single-mother or single-father households are less common among the foreign born (14 percent versus 25 percent for native born). Most strikingly, immigrants and refugees comprise 62 percent of the state's low-educated parents of young children, being more than four times more likely than their native-born counterparts to lack a high school diploma or equivalent. Foreign-born parents of young children are also significantly more likely to have low incomes—49 percent versus 30 percent of the native born. Not surprisingly, foreign-born parents account for the vast majority of the state's LEP parents of young children (94 percent).

**Relevance for WIOA Implementation:** Though WIOA's Title II provisions speak of services that "enable parents or family members to support their children's learning needs" and provide "training for parents or family members regarding how to be ... full partners in the education of their children," the law's performance measures leave little room for states to serve parents who are arguably most in need of these services. Many low-educated and/or LEP parents who seek such programs do not have learning

goals that align with the law's primary performance measures—particularly those focused on employment, earnings, and secondary/postsecondary degree and credential attainment.<sup>11</sup> With all WIOA-funded programs judged according to these measures and with states facing financial penalties should they not meet performance targets, many states and localities may be reluctant to provide AEFLA services to low-educated and LEP parents whose primary concerns are basic literacy and supporting their children's kindergarten readiness and future educational success. Should Illinois choose to maintain parent-focused programs for this population it would likely need to negotiate lower performance targets for these programs on the law's six accountability measures, and presumably judge their performance against state measures that better reflect expected outcomes of parent-focused programs. Alternatively, the state or its localities may simply avoid serving many parents of its most at-risk young children with AEFLA funds—even though failing to address their needs could undermine the success of investments being made by all levels of government in early childhood education and care services.

**Table 6. Poverty and Health Insurance for Illinois Residents (ages 16 and older), by Nativity, 2009-13**

Poverty	Total	Native Born		Foreign Born	
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population (for whom poverty status is determined)	9,876,000	8,205,000	100%	1,671,000	100%
Below 100% of FPL	1,234,000	982,000	12%	253,000	15%
100-199% of FPL	1,631,000	1,229,000	15%	402,000	24%
At or above 200% of FPL	7,010,000	5,994,000	73%	1,016,000	61%
<b>Health Insurance Coverage</b>					
Total population	10,145,000	8,453,000	100%	1,692,000	100%
No health insurance coverage	1,615,000	1,057,000	13%	558,000	33%

FPL = Federal poverty level.

Notes: The federal poverty level (FPL), calculated based on total family income before taxes (excluding capital gains and noncash benefits such as food stamps), was \$23,834 for a family of four in 2013. All numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand; calculations in the text use absolute numbers.

Source: MPI analysis of pooled 2009-13 ACS.

## 6) Poverty and Health Insurance

WIOA’s investments are intended to help meet local needs for skilled workers while also reducing welfare dependency and supporting workers in attaining education and skills that will allow them to earn a family-sustaining wage. While many of Illinois’ immigrants enjoy high levels of education and earnings, Table 6 data indicate that the state’s foreign-born residents are significantly more likely to earn below either 100 percent or 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL),<sup>12</sup> with almost 39 percent falling below the 200 percent threshold as compared to 27 percent for those who are native born. Looking to an additional indicator of economic vulnerability, the state’s foreign-born adults are more than 2.5 times as likely to lack health insurance coverage as those who are native born.

**Relevance for WIOA Implementation:** WIOA’s broad architecture as well as many of its specific provisions place a tight focus on directing services to low-income individuals, with the goal of helping them attain the education, degrees, and credentials they need to ensure a lifetime of improved earnings and economic stability. The disproportionate representation of foreign-born individuals among Illinois residents living in or near poverty provide impor-

tant measures against which the adequacy of state and local service designs and equity in distribution of services can be gauged.

## 7) U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Status

Publicly available data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) are the basis for all figures provided in the preceding sections of this profile. However, immigration status affects eligibility for certain WIOA services, and the ACS does not collect detailed information on respondents’ immigration status. To better assist stakeholders in considering the interplay of immigration status with WIOA implementation efforts, Table 7 provides estimates of the shares of foreign-born U.S. residents in key immigration-status categories. The MPI estimates are based on a methodology that imputes immigration status from two Census Bureau surveys—the ACS and the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).<sup>13</sup> In part because this methodology involves inflating ACS figures in order to account for presumed undercounting of noncitizens, especially those who are unauthorized, the figures are not directly comparable to the



**Table 7. U.S. Citizenship Status of Foreign-Born Residents (ages 16 and older) in Illinois, 2009-13**

U.S. Citizenship Status	Number	Percent
Foreign born	1,833,000	100%
Naturalized citizens	787,000	43%
Noncitizens	1,046,000	57%
Legal permanent residents	496,000	47%
Legal nonimmigrants	67,000	6%
Unauthorized immigrants	483,000	46%
DACA immediately eligible (2012)	59,000	12%
DACA eligible but for education (2012)	18,000	4%

*Note:* All numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand; calculations in the text use absolute numbers.

*Sources:* MPI analysis of pooled 2009-13 ACS, and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) by James D. Bachmeier and Colin Hammar of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute.

estimates used in the earlier portions of this profile.

Using this methodology, MPI estimates that among Illinois immigrants ages 16 and older, 43 percent were naturalized citizens. Of the approximately 1 million noncitizens, nearly half were lawful permanent residents (LPRs) and 46 percent were unauthorized.<sup>14</sup> Within the unauthorized population, 16 percent—almost 77,000 individuals—were potentially eligible to apply for protection from deportation and work authorization under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program when it first launched in 2012, with thousands more aging into eligibility since that time. Many have come forward to obtain these protections; according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), 36,923 Illinois residents had received DACA status as of June 2015.<sup>15</sup>

***Relevance for WIOA Implementation:***

Immigration status is relevant to a variety of WIOA programs beyond the broad provisions described earlier that restrict unauthorized immigrants from accessing Title I services and the absence of status restrictions placed on Title II services. For example, under Title II a primary purpose of the Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education program is to support immigrants in preparing for citizenship and full participation in the civic life of their community.<sup>16</sup> And while all immigrants—regardless of immigration status—are eligible for AEFLA services, states that choose to braid Title I and II funds to provide integrated education and training services may inadvertently place Title II funds beyond the reach of unauthorized immigrants and/or create the need to implement complex new administrative procedures to assess the immigration status of recipients of adult education services.

## Endnotes

- 1 See, for example, John Wachen, Davis Jenkins, Clive Belfield, and Michelle Van Noy with Amanda Richards and Kristen Kulongoski, *Contextualized College Transition Strategies for Adult Basic Skills Students: Learning from Washington State's I-BEST Program Model* (New York: The Community College Research Center, Teacher's College, Columbia University, 2012), 21-22, [www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/abepds/ibest\\_ccrc\\_report\\_december2012.pdf](http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/abepds/ibest_ccrc_report_december2012.pdf).
- 2 See the final section of this fact sheet for additional data and information on immigration status issues.
- 3 In addition, many unauthorized young adults are eligible for protection under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program; DACA approval would allow them to qualify for WIOA Title I services, as opposed to strictly *Adult Education and Family Literacy Act*-funded services.
- 4 Limited English Proficient (LEP) refers to any person age 5 and older who reported speaking English less than "very well" as classified by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- 5 Individuals considered a priority for Title I adult employment and training services are "recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient." See *Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act*, Public Law 113-128, *U.S. Statutes at Large* 128 (2014) 1425, Title I Sec. 134 (c)(3)(E), [www.congress.gov/113/bills/hr803/BILLS-113hr803enr.pdf](http://www.congress.gov/113/bills/hr803/BILLS-113hr803enr.pdf).
- 6 American Fact Finder, "Nativity by Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over," 2011-2013 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, accessed November 23, 2015, [www.factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_13\\_3YR\\_B16005&prodType=table](http://www.factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_13_3YR_B16005&prodType=table).
- 7 See, for example, Randy Capps, Michael Fix, Margie McHugh, and Serena Yi-Ying Lin, *Taking Limited English Proficient Adults into Account in the Federal Adult Education Funding Formula* (Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute, 2009), [www.migrationpolicy.org/research/taking-limited-english-proficient-adults-account-federal-adult-education-funding-formula](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/taking-limited-english-proficient-adults-account-federal-adult-education-funding-formula).
- 8 For example, in 2013 Title II adult education programs served about 1.6 million people while MPI estimates that among adults 19 and over, approximately 43 million were either low-educated or LEP. For adult education enrollment data, see U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education, National Reporting System, "State Enrollment by Program Type (ABE, ASE, ESL): All States," program year 2013, [www.wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OVAE/NRS/reports/](http://www.wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OVAE/NRS/reports/).
- 9 Illinois Bridge Initiative, *Creating a Successful Bridge Program: A "How To" Guide* (Springfield, Illinois: Illinois Community College Board, 2012), [www.iccb.org/pdf/shiftinggears/iccb\\_2012bridgeguide\\_web\\_rev\\_oct2012.pdf](http://www.iccb.org/pdf/shiftinggears/iccb_2012bridgeguide_web_rev_oct2012.pdf).
- 10 Jeanne Batalova, Michael Fix, and Peter A. Creticos, *Uneven Progress: The Employment Pathways of Skilled Immigrants in the United States* (Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute, 2008), [www.migrationpolicy.org/research/uneven-progress-employment-pathways-skilled-immigrants-united-states](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/uneven-progress-employment-pathways-skilled-immigrants-united-states).
- 11 See *Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act*, Title I Sec. 116(b)(2)(A)(i) for a description of the law's six accountability measures.
- 12 The federal poverty level (FPL), calculated based on total family income before taxes (excluding capital gains and noncash benefits such as food stamps), was \$23,834 for a family of four in 2013. For more information, see U.S. Census Bureau, "How the Bureau Measures Poverty," accessed November 23, 2015, [www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html).

- 13 For a detailed discussion of this methodology, see Randy Capps, Michael Fix, Jennifer Van Hook, and James D. Bachmeier, *A Demographic, Socioeconomic, and Health Coverage Profile of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States* (Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute, 2013), [www.migrationpolicy.org/research/demographic-socioeconomic-and-health-coverage-profile-unauthorized-immigrants-united-states](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/demographic-socioeconomic-and-health-coverage-profile-unauthorized-immigrants-united-states).
- 14 For more detailed MPI estimates of the unauthorized population in Illinois prepared using this methodology at national, state, and top county levels, see MPI Data Hub, “Unauthorized Immigrant Population Profiles,” [www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/us-immigration-policy-program-data-hub/unauthorized-immigrant-population-profiles](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/us-immigration-policy-program-data-hub/unauthorized-immigrant-population-profiles).
- 15 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), “Number of 1-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals by Fiscal Year, Quarter, Intake, Biometrics and Case Status: 2012-2015 (June 30),” accessed November 20, 2015, [www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/I821d\\_performance\\_data\\_fy2015\\_qtr3.pdf](http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/I821d_performance_data_fy2015_qtr3.pdf).
- 16 *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*, Title II Sec. 203 (12).

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Prior to joining MPI, Ms. McHugh served for 15 years as Executive Director of The New York Immigration Coalition, an umbrella organization for over 150 groups in New York that uses research, policy development, and community mobilization efforts to achieve landmark integration policy and program initiatives. Prior to joining NYIC, Ms. McHugh served as Deputy Director of New York City’s 1990 Census Project and as Executive Assistant to New York Mayor Ed Koch’s chief of staff.

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