



Immigrants and WIOA Services

Comparison of Sociodemographic Characteristics of Native- and Foreign-Born Adults in Texas

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This fact sheet provides a profile of key characteristics of foreign-born and native-born residents of the state of Texas 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 Texas Residents

As of 2009-13, Texas was home to 19.4 million residents ages 16 and older; nearly 4 million of whom, or 20 percent, were foreign born. Relatively fewer of Texas' 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 74 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 48 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 years old (at 15 percent versus 22 percent respectively).

A striking 72 percent of the state's immigrant residents ages 16 and over hail from Latin America, as compared to 53 percent nationwide; 19 percent are of Asian origin—significantly less than the 28 percent share nationally; and 4 percent are European, again significantly less 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 Texas 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	19,438,000	15,501,000	100%	3,936,000	100%	
Age Groups						
16 to 18	1,139,000	1,029,000	7%	110,000	3%	
19 to 24	2,245,000	1,910,000	12%	335,000	9%	
25 to 44	7,210,000	5,332,000	34%	1,878,000	48%	
45 to 59	4,882,000	3,852,000	25%	1,030,000	26%	
60 and over	3,962,000	3,378,000	22%	583,000	15%	
Gender						
Female	9,863,000	7,922,000	51%	1,942,000	49%	
Regions of Birth (excluding birth at sea and unspecified countries)						
Africa	X	X	X	127,000	3%	
Asia	X	X	X	736,000	19%	
Europe	X	X	X	172,000	4%	
Latin America	X	X	X	2,852,000	72%	
Northern America	X	X	X	41,000	1%	
Oceania	X	X	X	7,000	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 Texas 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 10 percent of the state’s 16-to-18-year-old population; however, they comprise 23 percent of the state’s out-of-school youth in this age range, and are almost three times 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 15 percent of the state’s 19-to-24-year-olds but again are almost three times as likely as native-born peers to lack a HSD/E, comprising a third 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 (10 percent versus 18 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 35 percent).

Foreign-born individuals account for 22 percent of Texas residents ages 25 and older; they are more than three times as likely as native-born peers to lack a HSD/E, accounting for half (51 percent) of adults in this age group who have not completed high school. At the other end of the education spectrum, 28 percent of native-born adults hold a bachelor's degree or higher as compared to 21 percent of the foreign born.

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 local 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

Table 2. Educational Attainment of Texas 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	1,139,000	1,029,000	100%	110,000	100%
Not enrolled and no high school diploma or equivalent	53,000	41,000	4%	12,000	11%
Population ages 19 to 24	2,245,000	1,910,000	100%	335,000	100%
With at least high school diploma or equivalent	1,928,000	1,701,000	89%	228,000	68%
Without high school diploma or equivalent	317,000	210,000	11%	108,000	32%
Enrolled in school	49,000	39,000	18%	11,000	10%
Not enrolled in school and not employed	132,000	97,000	46%	35,000	32%
Not enrolled in school and employed	136,000	74,000	35%	62,000	58%
Population ages 25 and older	16,053,000	12,562,000	100%	3,491,000	100%
Less than high school diploma or equivalent	3,043,000	1,497,000	12%	1,547,000	44%
High school diploma or equivalent	4,077,000	3,390,000	27%	687,000	20%
Some college or associate's degree	4,676,000	4,137,000	33%	539,000	15%
Bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree	4,257,000	3,539,000	28%	718,000	21%
Foreign college-educated	X	X	X	403,000	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.

state, given the difficulties many such pathway programs face in equitably serving adults with basic skills needs.¹ Integrated education and training models must also comply with immigration status restrictions placed on Title I-funded programs.² However, while those who lack work authorization are not eligible for WIOA-funded workforce services, all refugees and the majority of Texas 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.³

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 Texas residents are provided below given the relevance of LEP status⁴ 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.⁵ 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.

Foreign-born individuals account for 81 percent of LEP residents in Texas, with the 19 percent of native-born LEPs comprised largely of Spanish speakers.⁶ The total number of LEP residents (2.95 million) is nearly as large as the total number of low-educated individuals ages 19 and older in the state (3.36 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.⁷

Among all LEP individuals ages 19 to 24 and ages 25 and over, 1.64 million lack a HSD/E, indicating that nearly half of the state’s low-educated adults are also LEP. Significant numbers of LEP individuals also have high levels of underlying education, including 563,000 of those ages 25 and older who have earned a high school diploma or equivalent, and an additional 552,000 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: Texas’ number of LEP residents rivals its number of those who are low-educated; each group is eligible for AEFLA services, which in recent years met only about 4 percent of need nationally.⁸ The state faces complex challenges in equitably reflecting the significant and wide range of LEP learner needs and goals in its Unified State Plan that will govern WIOA service provision in Texas and that the U.S. Secretaries of Labor and Education must ultimately approve. For one, the state’s LEP residents include those who need AEFLA services but may not seek the employment or postsecondary transition and completion goals that are the primary focus of the law’s narrow accountability measures—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.

In addition, the law’s significant new emphasis

on postsecondary training is likely to pose major challenges for local systems that in the past provided ESL and workforce training services separately and/or served few low-skilled or LEP individuals in Title I programs. While new provisions in WIOA do target workforce services to these basic skills-deficient individuals, the record of career pathway models and other training programs in providing equitable access to individuals who are low-educated and/or LEP is very weak. For example, nationally in the past five years LEP individuals have consistently comprised less than 2 percent of individuals receiving Title

I-funded intensive or training services.⁹

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. Significant policy, planning, and capacity-building efforts will be needed as the state and its localities take steps to address their obligation to provide equitable access to Title I-funded programs for those who are LEP and

Table 3. Limited English Proficiency and Educational Attainment of Texas 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	2,953,000	556,000	19%	2,397,000	81%
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
LEP population ages 16 to 18	75,000	40,000	100%	35,000	32%
Not enrolled and no high school diploma or equivalent	11,000	3,000	7%	8,000	67%
LEP population ages 19 to 24	216,000	61,000	100%	155,000	100%
With at least high school diploma or equivalent	122,000	47,000	76%	75,000	48%
Without high school diploma or equivalent	95,000	14,000	24%	80,000	52%
Enrolled in school	7,000	3,000	19%	5,000	6%
Not enrolled in school and not employed	33,000	6,000	44%	26,000	33%
Not enrolled in school and employed	55,000	5,000	38%	49,000	61%
LEP population ages 25 and older	2,662,000	455,000	100%	2,207,000	100%
Less than high school diploma or equivalent	1,547,000	215,000	47%	1,332,000	60%
High school diploma or equivalent	563,000	115,000	25%	448,000	20%
Some college or associate's degree	308,000	81,000	18%	227,000	10%
Bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree	244,000	44,000	10%	200,000	9%

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 Texas 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	2,709,000	100%	559,000	100%
Underutilized (i.e., in low-skilled jobs or unemployed)	440,000	16%	120,000	21%

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

Source: MPI analysis of pooled 2009-13 ACS.

lack a HSD/E, as well as the significant number of LEP individuals who already possess a high school diploma or higher, and are therefore positioned to directly access postsecondary level 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 experience to the U.S. labor market.¹⁰ Fifty-six percent of foreign-born individuals in Texas 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, 200,000 (9 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 Texas, showing 17 percent of all highly educated workers in the state are affected, with the high levels of education of the foreign born more likely to be underutilized (21 percent versus 16 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—

Table 5. Family Structure and Young-Child Parental Status for Texas 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	5,537,000	3,913,000	100%	1,624,000	100%
Single mother	1,032,000	819,000	21%	213,000	13%
Single father	284,000	215,000	5%	69,000	4%
Two parents	4,222,000	2,880,000	74%	1,342,000	83%
Reside with at least one child ages 0-8	3,423,000	2,382,000	100%	1,041,000	100%
Limited English Proficient (LEP)	734,000	85,000	4%	649,000	62%
Low-educated	674,000	228,000	10%	446,000	43%
Low-income (below 200% of FPL)	1,508,000	854,000	36%	654,000	63%

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.

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 20 percent of the state's overall population ages 16 and older, immigrants and refugees in Texas account for 29 percent of parents residing with at least one child under age 18, and 30 percent of those with at least one 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 (17 percent versus 26 percent for native born). Most strikingly, immigrants and refugees comprise two-thirds 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—63 percent versus 36 percent of the native born. Not surprisingly, foreign-born parents account for the vast majority of the state's LEP parents of young children (88 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.¹¹ 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

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

	Total	Native Born		Foreign Born	
Poverty	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population (for whom poverty status is determined)	18,910,000	15,030,000	100%	3,880,000	100%
Below 100% of FPL	2,848,000	1,963,000	13%	885,000	23%
100-199% of FPL	3,784,000	2,663,000	18%	1,121,000	29%
At or above 200% of FPL	12,277,000	10,404,000	69%	1,873,000	48%
Health Insurance Coverage					
Total population	19,438,000	15,501,000	100%	3,936,000	100%
No health insurance coverage	5,182,000	3,226,000	21%	1,956,000	50%

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.

children’s kindergarten readiness and future educational success. Should Texas 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.

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 Texas’ 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),¹² with more than

half falling below the 200 percent threshold as compared to 31 percent for those who are native born. Looking to an additional indicator of economic vulnerability, the state’s foreign-born adults are nearly 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 Texas residents living in or near poverty provide important 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,

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

U.S. Citizenship Status	Number	Percent
Foreign born	4,327,000	100%
Naturalized citizens	1,350,000	31%
Noncitizens	2,977,000	69%
Legal permanent residents	1,470,000	49%
Legal nonimmigrants	175,000	6%
Unauthorized immigrants	1,333,000	45%
DACA immediately eligible (2012)	142,000	11%
DACA eligible but for education (2012)	59,000	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.

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 Texas 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).¹³ 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 estimates used in the earlier portions of this profile.

Using this methodology, MPI estimate that among Texas immigrants ages 16 and older, 31 percent were naturalized citizens. Of the approximately 3 million noncitizens, nearly half were lawful permanent residents (LPRs) and 45 percent were unauthorized.¹⁴ Within the unauthorized population, 15 percent—200,000 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), 109,724 Texas residents had received DACA status as of June 2015.¹⁵

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.¹⁶ 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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/.
- 9 Social Policy Research Associates, *Program Year 2013 WIASRD Data Book* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Performance and Technology, 2015), www.doleta.gov/performance/results/pdf/PY_2013_WIASRD_Data_Book.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.
- 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.
- 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 Im-*

migrants in the United States (Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute, 2013), 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 New Jersey prepared using this methodology at national, state, and top county levels, see MPI Data Hub, “Unauthorized Immigrant Population Profiles,” accessed November 20, 2015, 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.
- 16 *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*, Title II Sec. 203 (12).

About the Authors



Margie McHugh is Director of the Migration Policy Institute’s National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy. Her work focuses on education quality and access issues for immigrants and their children from early childhood through K-12 and adult, postsecondary and workforce skills programs. She also leads the Center’s work seeking a more coordinated federal response to immigrant integration needs and impacts, and more workable systems for recognition of the education and work experience immigrants bring with them to the United States.

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