

Creating a Network of
Adult Learners and
ESOL Providers in
Worcester, MA

May 31, 2018

Outline

- Introductions
- Creating a Network: Overview of process
 - Assessment
 - Convening
 - Follow-up
- Questions and discussion

Worcester Community Connections Coalition of YOU, Inc.

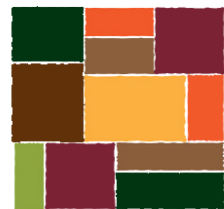
Worcester Community Connections Coalition works to support Worcester families by:

- Coordinating and improving access to resources already in the community
- Bringing out the voices and perspectives of residents in the planning for local resources
- Ensuring that services meet the needs of the people
- Helping parents to become more confident, competent and nurturing



Manal Hassan, Parent Leader
and ESOL Advocate

Recipient of English for New
Bostonians English Works Rising Star
Certificate of Recognition, 2017



english **NEW**
BOSTONIANS

Worcester's Adult English Learners


- 34.7% of the population of Worcester 5 years and over, or about 60,000 residents, speak a language other than English at home.
- A little less than half of those, or 16.7% of the total population, self-identify as speaking English less than “very well.”
- About 8,000 total households are considered “Limited English Speaking” households, meaning no member of the family 14 years old and over speaks only English or speaks English “very well,” accounting for 11.6% of all households in Worcester.

“Insights from the 2012-2016 American Community Survey Estimates,” prepared by Katelyn Duncan, Worcester Public Library, 12/21/17

Worcester's Foreign-Born Population

- 22.9% of the population of Worcester, or about 40,000 residents, were born outside of the United States.
- Top countries of origin are Ghana, Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Albania, Brazil, China, India, Kenya, El Salvador, and Iraq.
- The poverty rate for the foreign-born population is 17.9%, almost the same as the overall poverty rate for the city, but the poverty rate for those who entered the country in 2010 or later is 34%.
- Vehicle availability is noticeably lower among the foreign-born population, with 16.1% having no access to a vehicle versus 6.8% for city residents overall.

“Insights from the 2012-2016 American Community Survey Estimates,” prepared by Katelyn Duncan, Worcester Public Library, 12/21/17



English Language Learning Services for Adults in Worcester, MA: Spring 2016 Assessment

Conducted by Worcester Community
Connections Coalition with funding from
Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Goals of the Assessment

- Understand the greatest barriers that low-income parents encounter when attempting to learn English
- Identify the functioning capacity of the current ESOL classes being offered in the city

In order to...

- Address the barriers that exist in the current system
- Facilitate future efforts regarding the coordination and facilitation of ESOL resources in Worcester

Methodology

- Interviews with 16 ESOL providers
- Focus group discussions with adult English learners

Major Findings—Provider Inventory

- All providers use different placement tests and curriculums, or use none at all
- Over a third of providers have waiting lists
- Most teachers are required to have certain qualifications
- Classes are offered at various times and locations
- Childcare and transportation are consistent challenges

Major Findings—Discussions with English Learners

- Adult English learners shared a number of motivational factors for learning English, including improving their ability to communicate, employment, supporting their children, and higher education.
- They reported several barriers to English classes, including scheduling, childcare, transportation, health, lack of income, and fear of deportation.

Why English?


- “I would give everything to learn English a little bit.”
- “To make friends, to go all schools meeting in my kids’ schools, and share my opinions in any matter.”
- “I want a better future for my family.”
- “I want to be confident and to not be discriminated against.”
- “It is necessary to live in America.”
- “We can’t exist here if we don’t know English.”

The background of the slide is a vibrant green with a pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent white hexagons. A dark grey rectangular area is positioned at the top right. The main text is centered in the white area below the grey box.

ESOL Network Convening, February 2017

20 ESOL providers in attendance

- Revisited 2016 findings
- Identified priorities
 - Work more closely as a network
 - Database of programs
 - Central common referral source or place learners can apply
 - Public education about what it takes to learn another language
 - Common placement
 - Common system of measurement/common measures for assessing proficiency
- Vision for Adult ESOL in Worcester
 - Coordination, communication, sharing of resources and information, collaboration
 - Identify barriers and increase accessibility of English classes
 - Wraparound services: childcare, transportation, mental health, and bridge to employment
 - Emphasis on community-building, safety, and empathy
 - Localized, adaptable, and flexible programs



March 2017-
Present: Bimonthly
Network meetings
and collaboration

SAMPLE AGENDA

ESOL Network Meeting
May 22, 2018
10 AM-11:15 AM

Welcome, Introductions, and Check-in

Updates

- Summer offerings

ESOL Navigator

- Updates from Navigator team
- How can the network support?

Intersection between CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan) and ESOL class accessibility

- How many individuals have accessed ESOL classes over the past two years?

Additional announcements

Closing and thanks

Work more closely as a network

- Bimonthly network meetings
- Regular email communication
- Shared Google Drive

Find an English Class in Worcester



508-556-7097



worcesterwelcomes.wordpress.com

Encuentra clases de inglés	Encontre uma aula de inglês	Trouvez un cours d'anglais	Gjeni nje klase per te mesuar gjuhen	Tìm một lớp tiếng Anh	إبحث عن فصل اللغة الإنجليزية	अग्रं ेजी भाषा सिक्नुहो
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Martes Terças Martdis Martave Thứ Ba يوم الثلاثاء मंगलबार

Tuesdays at Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square, 12:00 to 5:00

Viernes Sextas Vendredis Premteve Thứ Sáu الجمعة शुक्रबार

Fridays at RIAC, 340 Main Street, Suite 804, 12:00 to 4:00



A collaborative project of RIAC, Worcester Public Library, Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester, Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester Alliance for Refugee Ministry, and Worcester Public Schools as part of the ESOL Network coordinated by Worcester Community Connections Coalition of Y.O.U. Inc. Funding for the ESOL Navigator provided by Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

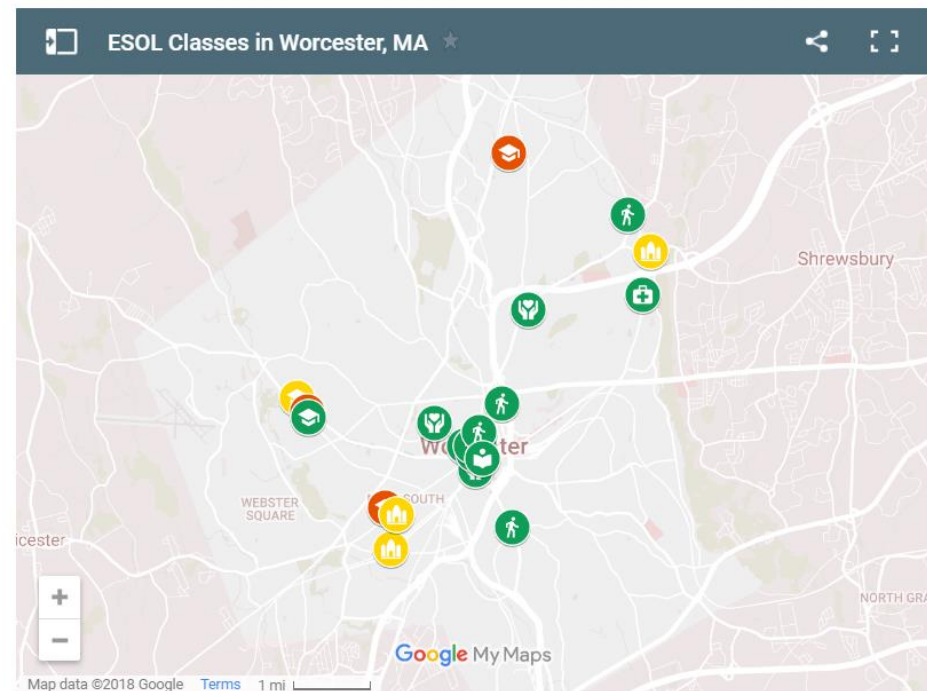
Implementation of ESOL Navigator with funding from Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Regular maintenance of database of ESOL programs (print and online at worcesterwelcomes.wordpress.com)



The screenshot shows the website for the Worcester Welcoming Network. The header includes the title "Worcester Welcoming Network" and the subtitle "English & Citizenship Course Listings by Worcester Public Library". Below this is the Worcester Public Library logo and a navigation menu with options like "Library Website", "Find an English Class!", "All ESOL Programs", and "Citizenship Classes". A "Translate" section is also visible. The main content area features a heading "Find an English Class!" and a sub-heading "Find an English Class in Worcester". A text block below the sub-heading provides information about a new program in March 2018, mentioning the ESOL Navigator and specific locations like the Main Library and RIAC. The footer of the page states, "There are many opportunities to practice and improve your English in".

Use the map below to find a class near you. Click on an icon for more information.
Green locations are free, **yellow** cost \$5-\$50 and **orange** cost over \$50.



The map, titled "ESOL Classes in Worcester, MA", shows the city of Worcester and surrounding areas like Shrewsbury. It features several colored pins representing different classes: green pins for free classes, yellow pins for classes costing \$5-\$50, and orange pins for classes costing over \$50. The pins are scattered across the city, with a concentration in the central and southern parts. The map includes a scale bar at the bottom indicating 1 mile and is powered by Google My Maps.

Work on consensus around understanding of class levels

National Reporting System (NRS)	Student Performance Level (SPL)	Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)	Global Scale of English (GSE)	Student Checklist			
				Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing
Beginning ESL Literacy	0	Below A1	10-21				
	1			<input type="checkbox"/> I can say the letters of the alphabet. <input type="checkbox"/> I can greet people. <input type="checkbox"/> I can ask others and say my own: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Name o Phone number o Date of birth o Date o Age o Nationality <input type="checkbox"/> I can name some everyday objects.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can recognize simple greetings. <input type="checkbox"/> I can understand pronounced numbers. <input type="checkbox"/> I can understand pronounced letters of the alphabet.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can recognize numbers. <input type="checkbox"/> I can recognize the letters of the alphabet.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can write the letters of the alphabet in upper and lower case. <input type="checkbox"/> I can write my name and address.
Low Beginning ESL	2	A1 (Basic User)	22-29	<input type="checkbox"/> I can greet people, ask how they are, and react to news. <input type="checkbox"/> I can tell the time of day. <input type="checkbox"/> I can express how I am feeling using basic expressions. <input type="checkbox"/> I can ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can understand questions spoken carefully and slowly. <input type="checkbox"/> I can understand the time of day. <input type="checkbox"/> I can extract the names of people or places from short, simple dialogues.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can understand familiar names, words, and simple sentences. <input type="checkbox"/> I can follow simple written instructions. <input type="checkbox"/> I can understand short written signs with visual support. <input type="checkbox"/> I can sound out simple words.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can complete simple forms with basic personal details (name, address, phone number, nationality). <input type="checkbox"/> I can write simple sentences about my family, where I live, routines, etc.
	3	A2 (Basic User)	30-42	<input type="checkbox"/> I can communicate in simple and routine tasks.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can understand common words, phrases, and	<input type="checkbox"/> I can read most sight words and other common	<input type="checkbox"/> I can write simple sentences.

Worcester ESOL Providers

- ACE: African Community Education
- Angel's Net
- Ascentria Care Alliance
- Bachson Academy at Assumption College
- Clark University ALCI Community ESL Program
- Community Builders of Plumley Village
- GEmS (Global Empowerment Services, Inc.)
- Latino Education Institute of WSU—Club E
- Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester
- Notre Dame Educational Bridge Center
- Marie Anne Center at St. Bernard's Church
- Quinsigamond Community College: Community Bridges Program
- Quinsigamond Community College: ESL for credit
- Quinsigamond Community College: Adult Community Learning Center
- Southeast Asian Coalition
- St. Peter's Church
- Training Resources of America
- Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope
- WARM (Worcester Alliance for Refugee Ministry)
- Worcester Housing Authority
- Worcester Public Library
- Worcester Public Schools Adult Learning Center
- Worcester Senior Center
- Worcester State University Intensive English Language Institute
- Worcester State University Urban Action Institute
- WRAP (Worcester Refugee Assistance Project)



Literacy Volunteers
of Greater Worcester



TRAINING RESOURCES OF AMERICA
INCORPORATED



CLARK
UNIVERSITY



QUINSIGAMOND
Community College

WORCESTER



PUBLIC LIBRARY



Ascentria
CARE ALLIANCE



WORCESTER
STATE
UNIVERSITY

Adult English Learners

- Manal
- Kenza
- Jean Baptiste
- Salomay
- Berta
- Maria
- Santa
- Miguelina
- Evelyn
- Saida
- Santiago
- Juan Antonio
- Jésica
- Augustine
- Yaneth
- Ana
- Ivette
- Benjamin



Questions and Discussion

The image shows a presentation slide. The background is a vibrant green with a pattern of faint, overlapping white hexagons. On the right side, there is a white rectangular area with a thin green border. At the top of this white area is a solid dark grey rectangle. Below it, the text "Thank you!" is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the white area, there is a thick, solid green horizontal bar.

Thank you!