



**Berkshire Immigrant Center**  
A Program of Berkshire Community Action Council  
88 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201  
Tel: (413) 445-4881, Fax: (413) 445-4802  
Email: info@berkshireic.com

---

### *In the United States today:*

- ✚ One in eight people is an immigrant.
- ✚ Nearly 1 in 4 is the child of an immigrant.
- ✚ One quarter of all Kindergartners are Latino.
- ✚ One in five people is Latino or Asian.
- ✚ More than one in seven workers is an immigrant.
- ✚ Immigrants and their children are the fastest growing population.

#### **The U.S. Economy thrives on immigration**

Every year the U.S. creates 500,000 more unskilled jobs than Americans can fill and immigrants fill job shortages that Americans will not. Immigrant entrepreneurs create new American jobs- both Google and Yahoo were started by immigrants.

#### **Immigrants make up some of our best and brightest**

Like the Carnegies and Einstein's before them, immigrants are still making the grade. Currently 60% of all PHD's received from American Universities in the STEM fields are earned by immigrants. In addition, our 700,000 immigrant students contribute \$18.8 billion to the state economy.

#### **Immigrants do NOT drain welfare funds**

Immigrant tax payments total \$20-\$30 billion MORE than the amount of government services they use. Most immigrants are also not eligible for public benefits and therefore cannot access our welfare system.

#### **Immigrants focus on working hard, NOT on committing crimes**

Study after study shows that the foreign born are LESS likely to commit crimes. One study actually says that elected officials in the United States are more likely to commit crimes than foreign born individuals.

### *In the Commonwealth:*

- ✚ Between 2000 and 2004, 511 % of employment growth in Massachusetts was due to new immigrants.
- ✚ They make up 14% of the population here and 17% of the Massachusetts labor force.

- ✚ We are more dependant on immigrant labor than any other state per capita besides New York.
- ✚ The population of Massachusetts and Berkshire County is declining and aging. New immigrants moving into this area help to stimulate our economy and bolster our shrinking labor force.
- ✚ They are often younger and willing to take jobs that Massachusetts and Berkshire employers can't fill otherwise. Also extremely hard working, many take on 2-3 jobs to support family here and abroad.
- ✚ They pay taxes: Social Security reports it receives around \$6 billion annually from undocumented immigrants alone. All immigrants pay sales, property, and income taxes and the undocumented can pay state and federal taxes using an ITIN number issued by the IRS.

### ***In the Berkshires:***

- ✚ More than 800 individuals from over 70 countries find help each year at the BIC.
- ✚ The foreign born make up about 10% of our population.
- ✚ Immigrants account for Berkshire County's only population growth. In fact they are currently the only growing segment of our workforce and are providing critical skills to major industries.
- ✚ This population contributes enormously to the local culture and business atmosphere here as evidenced by a growing influx of ethnic events and immigrant-owned restaurants and businesses.
- ✚ 41% of storefronts on North St. are owned by immigrant entrepreneurs. 25% of all hotel owners in Berkshire County are immigrants.

***The ultimate motivation of migration is not economic or political: it is simple human dignity—the desire to live a dignified life and to provide for one's family.***

**For more information about the myths and fact of immigration and for source materials, please contact: The Berkshire Immigrant Center [www.berkshireic.com](http://www.berkshireic.com)**

---