

Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN) and our affiliated organizations, Brockton Interfaith Community, Essex County Community Organization, Metropolitan Interfaith Congregations Acting for Hope, United Interfaith Action, Worcester Interfaith, and Pioneer Valley Project, helped win passage of \$20.5 million in new state funding for job training, ESOL, and GED as part of an Economic Stimulus Bill passed by the State Legislature on June 15.

This organizing campaign was done in a coalition called the Workforce Solutions Group which was led by MCAN, the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, the Women's Union, and the Massachusetts Association of Workforce Boards.

This more than year long campaign involved many action meetings with legislators in their districts and meetings and negotiations at our state capitol.

Key provisions included in the legislation and funding are:

\$11 million for funding job training programs

\$3 million for ESOL and GED programs

\$3 million for school to career connecting activities

\$1 million for tuition assistance to part time community college residents

Two key policy areas that we worked for that passed in this legislation are:

1. Legislation to implement the Food Stamp Employment Training Program (FSET) which will bring in matching federal money for education and training provided to working poor food stamp recipients enrolled in job training, ESOL, GED, and community college programs.

2. A task force to look at the state's whole workforce training system and suggest changes state and federal funds are spread across 12 different state agencies and usually not coordinated.