

Northeast Massachusetts Regional Labor Force Blueprint 2023-2027

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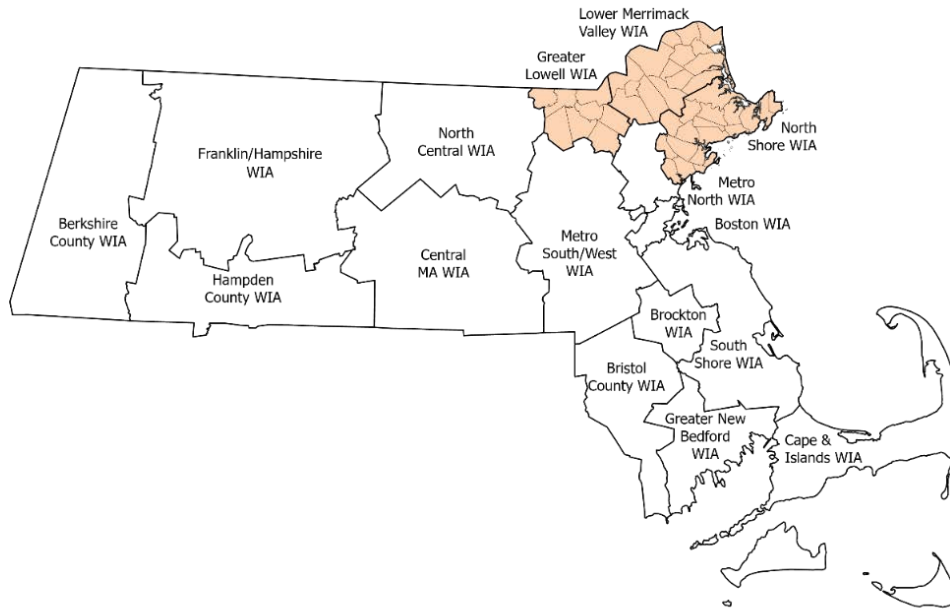
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Introduction

The Northeast Massachusetts region includes 42 cities and towns that are served by the Greater Lowell Workforce Board, the Merrimack Valley Workforce Board, and the North Shore Workforce Board. The goal of the Northeast Massachusetts Regional Labor Force Blueprint is to ensure that regional employers, educators, and workforce training officials are coordinated in a way that creates strong talent pipelines for jobs that offer career pathways and living wages.

Figure 1: Map of Workforce Regions in Northeast Massachusetts



Regional Planning Process

In order to fill out the “Regional Blueprint Template” developed by MassHire, the UMass Donahue Institute (UMDI) conducted data collection and analysis of available secondary data in addition to hosting three facilitated discussions with the regional planning team. The facilitated discussions provided qualitative data on the labor force and regional dynamics that cannot be learned solely from the analysis of secondary data. The facilitated discussions were also helpful to validate the quantitative data and trigger deeper conversations concerning barriers, opportunities, active initiatives, and recommendations. The use of facilitated discussions complements the data collection by bringing together workforce leaders, businesses, economic development officials, and the providers of education and training to make the linkages between data and practices, establish priorities, and to create a vision to drive regional workforce training and development in coming years.

Regional Planning Participants

Including members from the three workforce boards, the following individuals were invited to be a part of the regional planning process in Northeast Massachusetts.

Table 1: List of Regional Planning Team Participants

Individual Name	Organization
Kevin Coughlin	MassHire Greater Lowell Workforce Board
Frank Bonet	MassHire Merrimack Valley Workforce Board
Mary Sarris	MassHire North Shore Workforce Board
Katie Crowder	MassHire North Shore Workforce Board
Kate O'Malley	MassHire North Shore Workforce Board
Ed O'Sullivan	MassHire North Shore Workforce Board
Melissa DesRoches	City of Lowell Manager's Office
Stratton Lloyd	Essex County Community Foundation
Bonnie Carr	Essex Tech
Heidi Riccio	Essex Tech
John Lavoie	Greater Lawrence Technical High School
Danielle McFadden	Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce
Cheryl Bomal	Greater Lowell Technical High School
Jill Davis	Greater Lowell Technical High School
David Gagner	Lynn Vocational Technical Institute
Fred Gallo	Lynn Vocational Technical Institute
Shannon Norton	MassHire Lowell Career Center
James Henderson	MassHire Merrimack Valley Career Center
Leslie Parady	MassMEP
Joe Bevilaqua	Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

Angela Brown	Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Stephanie Cronin	Middlesex 3 Coalition
Audrey Nahabedian	Middlesex Community College
Caitlin Campopiano	Middlesex Community College
Ellen Wright	Middlesex Community College
Judy Burke	Middlesex Community College
Katy Gentile	Middlesex Community College
Lisa Tuzzolo	Middlesex Community College
Phil Sisson	Middlesex Community College
Maria Di Stefano	MOBD
Denise Pigeon	Nashoba Valley Technical High School
Laura Swanson	North Shore Alliance for Economic Development & Enterprise Center at Salem State University
Jennifer James Price	North Shore Community College
Kathryn Nielsen	North Shore Community College
William Heineman	North Shore Community College
Maryanne Ham	Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium
Allison Dolan-Wilson	Northern Essex Community College
Christopher Sicuranza	Northern Essex Community College
Dr. Lane Glenn	Northern Essex Community College
Christopher Glenn Hayes	Northern Middlesex Council of Governments
Jennifer Raitt	Northern Middlesex Council of Governments
John Keenan	Salem State University
Steven Maser	Salem State University
Tony McIntosh	Shawsheen Valley Technical High School

Nancy Ludwig	UMass Lowell
Tom O’Donnell	UMass Lowell
David Cunningham	Whittier Tech
Maureen Lynch	Whittier Tech
Tia Roy	Whittier Tech

Where are we now?

Regional Context

Northeast Massachusetts has a population of 1.1 million, which includes the 42 cities and towns that are served by Greater Lowell Workforce Board, Merrimack Valley Workforce Board, and the North Shore Workforce Board (Figure 2). The Greater Lowell area is made up of 8 communities, which includes the urban center of Lowell and its surrounding communities. The Merrimack Valley area consists of 15 cities and towns, including the larger cities of Haverhill and Lawrence, along the Merrimack River and the New Hampshire border. The North Shore area comprises 19 cities and towns, including the cities of Beverly, Gloucester, Peabody, and Salem and other shoreline communities. The combined Merrimack Valley and North Shore Workforce Boards comprise the entirety of Essex County while the Greater Lowell Workforce Board represents the northeastern corner of Middlesex County, the most populous county in Massachusetts.