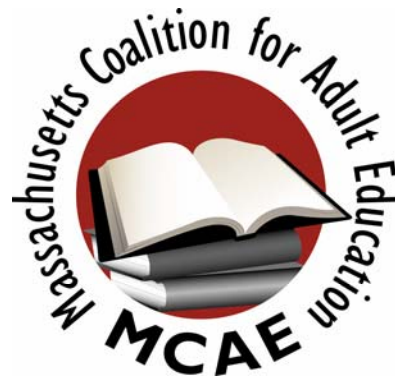


# **ADULT BASIC EDUCATION:** *A Critical Investment in Massachusetts' Future*

January 16, 2018



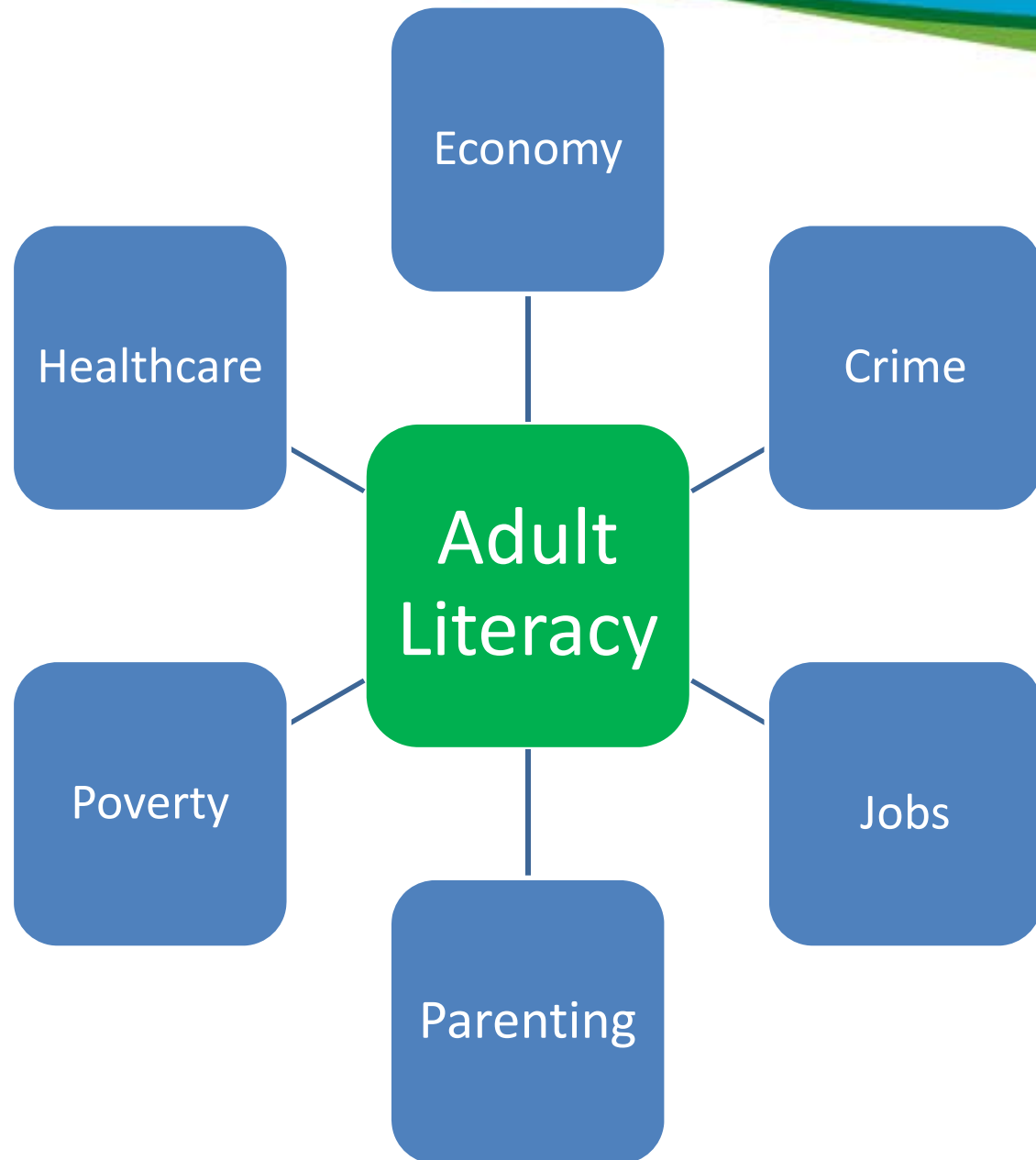
# **Michele Diecuch**

**Director of Programs  
ProLiteracy**





# How Does Low Adult Literacy Impact Society?





## Implications of Low Adult Literacy

- 43% of adults in poverty function at low literacy levels
- 70% of inmates have low literacy skills
- Adults who gain a HS equivalency degree earn about \$10,000 more per year
- Low-literate adults add \$238 billion in costs to the healthcare system



## Longitudinal Study of Adult Learning

- 10-year long study in Portland, Oregon
- HS dropouts, age 18-44
- 1,000 people – adult basic education participants & nonparticipants



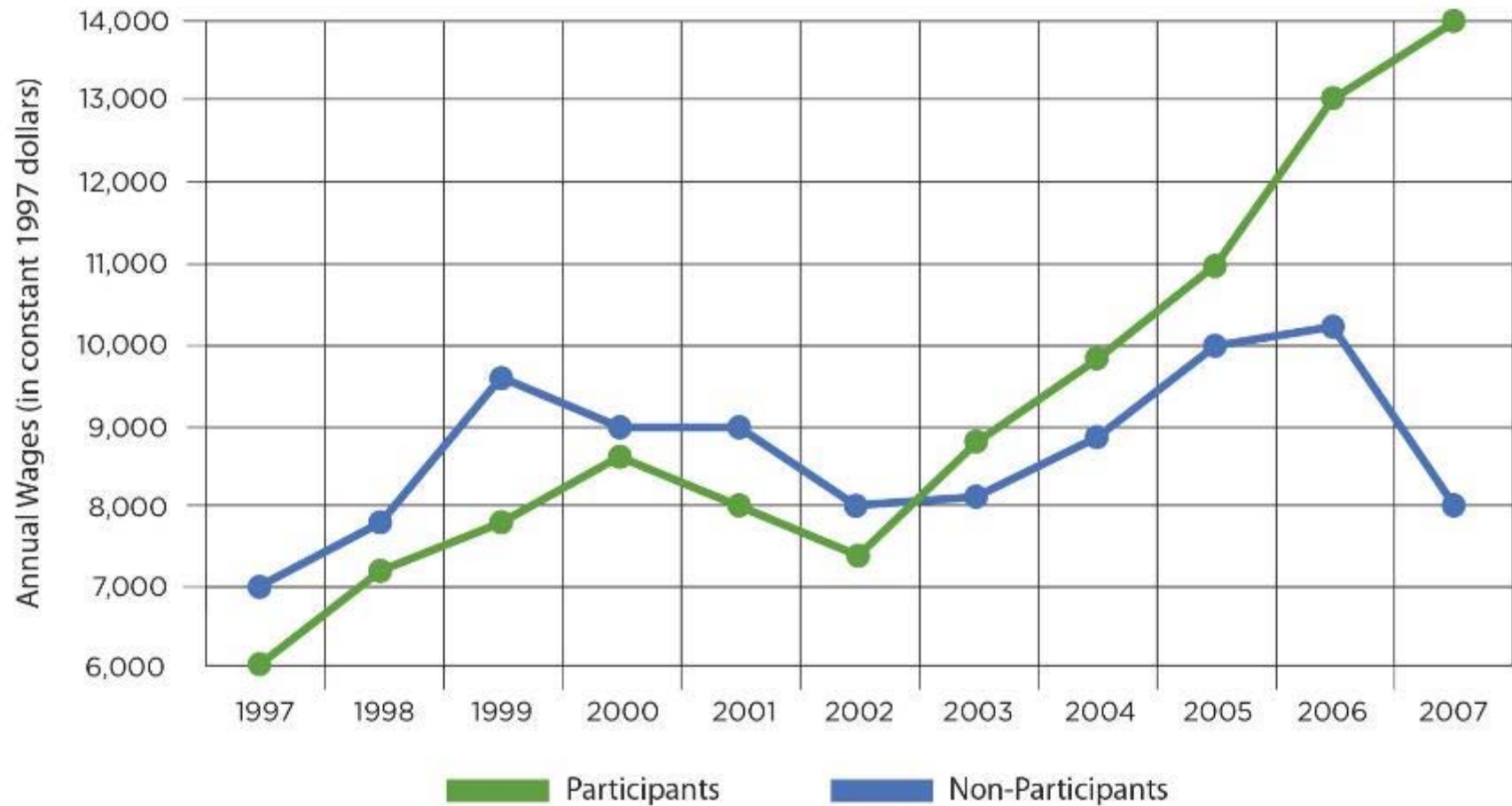
## Longitudinal Study of Adult Learning

Examined learner gains in five areas:

- Income
- Literacy levels
- High school equivalency attainment
- Postsecondary education engagement
- Civic participation/voting activity



## Economic Gains





## Economic Gain

Participants showed a mean income gain of 53% over 10 years vs. a 2% income drop for nonparticipants.

Participants who increased literacy skills earned an average of \$10,000 more per year.

Participants who persisted with instruction were twice as likely to achieve a HS equivalency credential than nonparticipants.





### ABS Participation and HSE Attainment

Hours of ABS Program Attendance Before HSE Receipt	Percentage Receiving HSE
100 or more	46.4
1-99	27.2
0 (no participation)	25.9

31% of participants also went on to attend postsecondary education/college.

Individuals with even some college earned 14% more than high school graduates.

## Other Studies

- The single greatest determinant of a child's educational success is the literacy level of his/her parent
- Recidivism rates are 43% lower when an inmate participates in a prison adult education program
- Odds of finding employment are 13% greater for inmates who participated in correctional education programs.
- Higher literacy levels lead to better healthcare decisions, behaviors, and communications between providers and patients.

# Tye Graham

**Senior Vice President, HR Business Partnerships  
Eastern Bank**





# **Christine Tibor**

**Executive Director of Family & Community Engagement  
Framingham Public Schools**



# Jeff McLynch

Director

Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education



# Demand – and Need – for Adult Education Remains High in Massachusetts

**ABE/ESOL Students Enrolled** *(FY 2016)* **19,021**

**ABE/ESOL Students on Wait Lists** *(@1.15.18)* **19,122**

**Massachusetts Residents  
Lacking a High School Credential** **462,385**

*(ages 25 and older, 2012-2016)*

**Massachusetts Residents  
Unable to Speak English “Very Well”** **529,547**

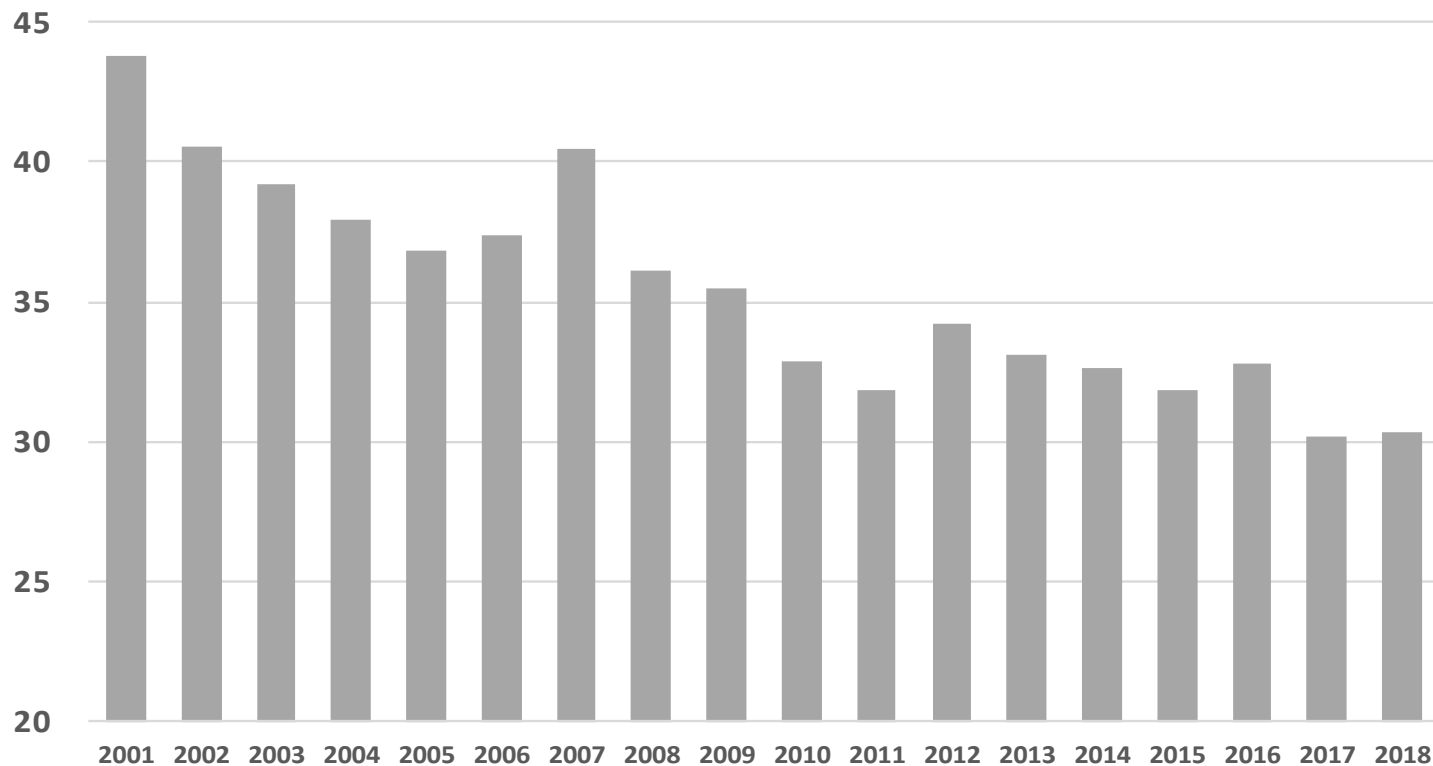
*(ages 18 and older, 2012-2016)*

Sources: US Department of Education; MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education; US Census Bureau



THE VOICE OF ADULT EDUCATION IN MASSACHUSETTS

# Real Value of Public Resources for Adult Education Has Declined Significantly Since FY 2001



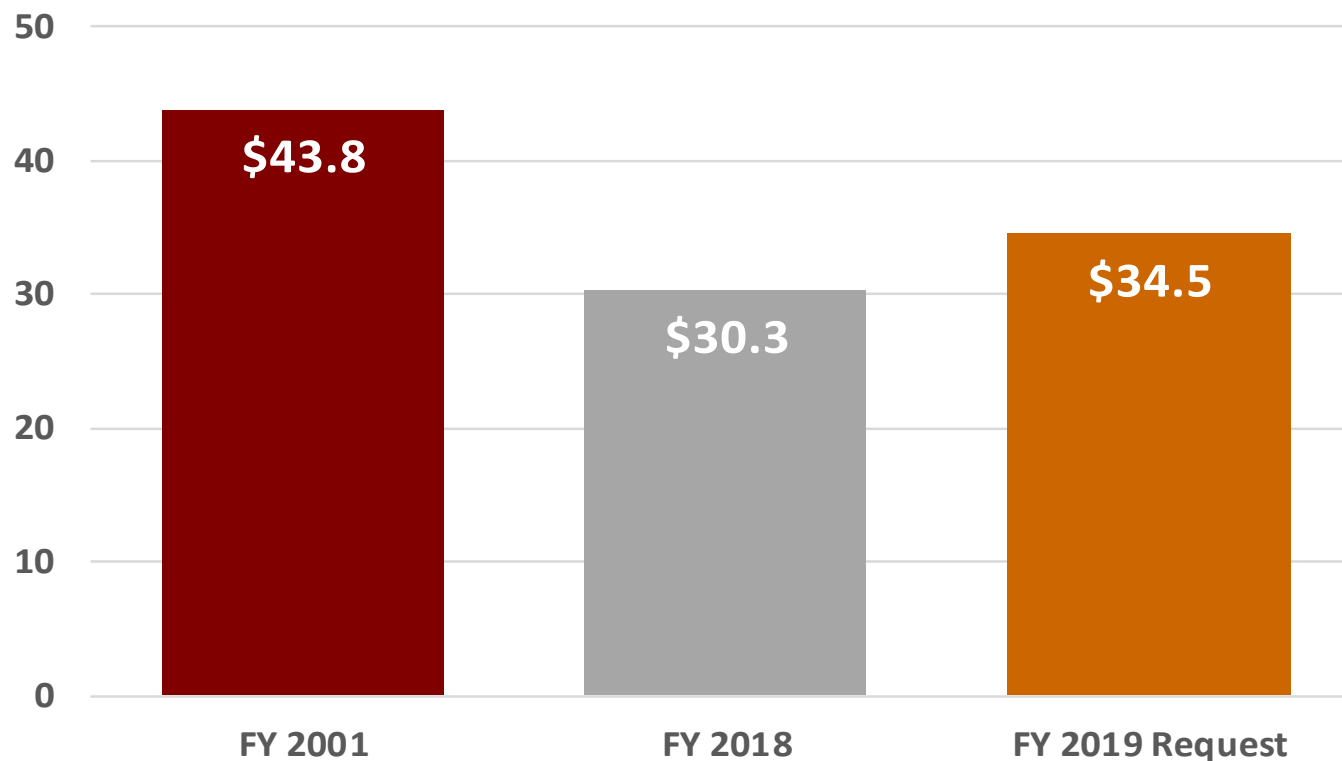
**Appropriations for Line Item 7035-0002 in millions of constant FY 2019 dollars, FY 2001-2018**

Source: MCAE calculations based on data from MassBudget and US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics



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# Investment in Adult Education Needed Now to Begin to Reverse Long-Term Decline



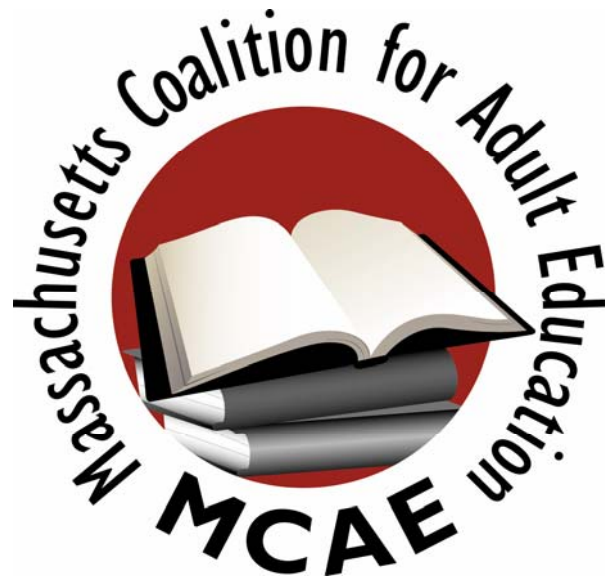
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Source: MCAE calculations based on data from MassBudget and US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics



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