

MRC NextGen Career Grant Location Proposal

We are proposing three regional locations for the NextGen Grant:

- Boston Area (Downtown, Roxbury, Braintree) – could also be expanded to include Somerville/Malden
- Merrimack Valley (Lawrence, Lowell)
- West District (Springfield and Worcester)

These regional locations have a combination of high numbers of youth age 18 to 30 currently served by VR, high proportions of target disability groups (sensory, Autism, DD), and have concentrations of African-American, Hispanic, and/or Asian populations, both currently served by VR and in the overall community. Additionally, these catchment areas include Community Colleges, State Universities, large School Districts, and Pre-ETS potentially eligible student pools that will be critical for recruitment to the project through both existing and new partnerships. Utilizing these regions and partnering with these referral sources will assist in reaching the targets for recruitment for the NextGen Career Grant.

South District (Boston Area – Downtown, Roxbury, and Braintree Offices)

Office	Overall Young Adults Served	Young Adults with Autism Served		% 18-30 Served Asian/Pacific Islander	% 18-30 Served African-American	% 18-30 Served Hispanic/Latinx	Diversity of Overall Population	Disability Population (County-based)	Potentially Eligible Students (Current)
Downtown Boston	576	103	17.9%	5.7%	34.5%	29.2%	High African-American, Asian, and Hispanic Population	94,971	180
Roxbury	332	45	13.6%	5.1%	65.7%	23.8%	High African-American and Hispanic Population	94,971	95
Braintree	496	94	19.0%	8.3%	17.5%	8.7%	High Asian population	66,718	28

- 1,404 youth currently served by VR (Somerville/Malden can also be considered as this would add another large catchment area and would increase this number to 2,500)
- High rate of youth served in target populations including Autism and Sensory Disabilities, and African-American, Hispanic/Latinx, and Asian populations). The Autism population is likely higher than represented in Boston and Roxbury as it likely is being underdiagnosed.
- Racial and Ethnic Diversity in local area (High African-American, Hispanic population in Boston/Suffolk County and Asian population in Boston and Quincy)
- Large population of individuals with disabilities in Suffolk and Norfolk counties
- Access to Community Colleges (Roxbury, Bunker Hill, Quincy College), State Universities (UMASS Boston), Pre-ETS vendors, and large school districts (Boston, Quincy)

North District (Merrimack Valley – Lowell and Lawrence Offices)

Office	Overall Young Adults Served	Young Adults with Autism Served		% 18-30 Served Asian/Pacific Islander	% 18-30 Served African-American	% 18-30 Served Hispanic/Latinx	Diversity of Overall Population	Disability Population (County-based)	Potentially Eligible Students (Current)
Lawrence	707	106	15.0%	2.0%	16.3%	38.9%	High Hispanic/Latinx population	91,815	113
Lowell	772	210	27.2%	10.9%	6.9%	10.4%	High Asian population	147,133	123

- 1,479 youth currently served by VR

- High rate of youth served in target populations including Autism (especially Lowell), Developmental Disabilities (Lawrence), and Hispanic/Latinx, and Asian populations.
- Racial and Ethnic Diversity in local area (High Hispanic Population in Lawrence area and Asian population in Lowell Area)
- Large population of individuals with disabilities in Middlesex and Essex Counties
- Access to Community Colleges (Middlesex and Northern Essex), State Universities (UMASS Lowell) and large school districts (Lowell, Lawrence, Haverhill)
- Large Potentially Eligible Pre-ETS population (Lowell and Lawrence amongst top offices in the state)
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West District (Worcester and Springfield/Holyoke Area)

Office	Overall Young Adults Served	Young Adults with Autism Served		% 18-30 Served Asian/Pacific Islander	% 18-30 Served African-American	% 18-30 Served Hispanic/Latinx	Diversity of Overall Population	Disability Population (County-based)	Potentially Eligible Students (Current)
Springfield	1035	162	15.7%	3.4%	20.0%	30.6%	High African-American & Hispanic/Latinx population	73,061	102
Worcester	669	100	14.9%	4.9%	15.5%	25.6%	High Hispanic/Latinx population (City of Worcester)	98,164	144

- 1,704 youth currently served by VR
- High rate of youth served in target populations including Autism, African-American, and Hispanic/Latinx populations.
- Racial and Ethnic Diversity in local area (High African-American Population and Hispanic/Latinx Population in Hampden County, and Worcester Area)
- Large population of individuals with disabilities in Hampden and Worcester Counties
- Access to Community Colleges (Springfield Technical, Holyoke, Quinsigamond), State Universities (UMASS Amherst, Westfield State) and large school districts (Springfield, Holyoke, Worcester)
- Large Potentially Eligible Pre-ETS population (Worcester and Springfield amongst top offices in the state)