

## **Adult Basic and Literacy Education Our Services Pay!**

Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) currently receives \$525,000 from the state of Montana. Those funds are the required match to pull down \$1,077,106 in funds from the Federal government. With this small investment of state funds (\$91 per student) 5773 students at 20 programs statewide were served during FY10. The numbers below represent the goals some of our students attained during that time.

ABLE students want to improve their skills to get the GED, gain or retain employment, enroll and succeed in post secondary education and training and improve their skills in speaking, reading and writing the English language for non-native English speakers.

### **A Second Chance... The GED High School equivalency**

- **955** ABLE students earned their GED last year
- ABLE GED completers increased their earning potential by \$5,979,255 (955 students x \$6261)
- Currently 77,021 adults in Montana do not have a high school diploma or G.E.D. (American Community Survey)
- A GED or high school diploma increases earning potential by \$6,261 a year (American Community Survey)
- This represents a total loss in earnings or \$482,228,481 (77,021 x \$6261)

### **An Opportunity to Work – Employment**

- **393** ABLE students gained employment saving the state of Montana potentially \$106,503 per week in unemployment payments.
- **573** ABLE students kept their current jobs.
- The unemployment rate in December 2010 was 7.2%
- The unemployment rate for individuals with less than a high school diploma or GED is 11.5% (American Community Survey)
- The Montana average weekly unemployment benefit in SFY 2010 was \$271 (<http://uid.dli.mt.gov/uid/uifacts.asp>)

### **Beyond High School – Post Secondary Education and Training**

- **524** ABLE students enrolled in post secondary education and training.
- These ABLE students have an increased earning potential of 1.25 to 5.6 million per year to contribute to the Montana economy.
- Individuals earn from \$2,400 to \$10,700 more per year depending on the education they pursue (American Community Survey)
- Currently 237,962 adults age 25 and older without post secondary education reside in Montana. (American Community Survey)
- The unemployment rate for individuals with more than a High School education is 2.3-4.2%. (American Community Survey)

## **If Adult Basic and Literacy Education is not Funded We Risk...**

### **Public Safety**

- We risk an increase in crime and in the number of people receiving public assistance. It is hard enough for offenders to find work with a record, but nearly impossible without education.
- **486** ABLE students in FY 2010 were in corrections or community corrections
- 80% of incarcerated adults don't have a High School diploma. (Reach Higher America)
- 95% of incarcerated individuals return to our communities with a three year recidivism rate of 37.6%. ([www.cor.mt.gov/facts](http://www.cor.mt.gov/facts))
- 3,509 inmates are served by the Department of Corrections at a cost of \$94 per day for a male and \$116.50 per day for a female. ([www.cor.mt.gov/facts](http://www.cor.mt.gov/facts))
- The 41 jails in Montana have a combined capacity of 2,177 inmates. ([www.cor.mt.gov/facts](http://www.cor.mt.gov/facts))

### **Our Children**

- We risk an increase in the dropout rate and sustained generational poverty.
- **986** single parents were served by ABLE.
- Low parent education deters children's learning. (Reach Higher America)
- When a mother's education levels are improved, so is children's ability to learn and succeed in school. (Reach Higher America)
- Every year one in three young adults dropout of high school. (Reach Higher America)

### **Our Future**

- We risk higher unemployment and an uneducated workforce.
- **524** ABLE students enrolled in post secondary education or training in FY 2010.
- Global competitiveness requires 55% of the working population to hold associate or bachelor's degrees. (Reach Higher America)
- 736,558 individuals age 18 and older reside in Montana. (American Community Survey)
- Only 37%, 270,369 individuals age 18 or older have some college education or a degree. (American Community Survey)

**Reduce those risks and build on our success. Fund Adult Basic and Literacy Education!**