Immigrant Worker Centers in Greater Boston: Mapping for Strategic Organizing Campaigns

Where do the workers live?

Centro Presente Members

Chinese Progressive Association Members

MassCOSH Members

Where do the workers work?

Employment Contractors & Temp Agencies

Janitorial Services

Construction Companies

Worker Centers
Community-based mediating institutions that provide support to and organize among communities of low-wage workers

Changing Context
Traditional models of labor organizing by industry and are ineffective in the new economy:
- Transnational movement of capital and workforce
- Rise of contingent work
- Change to service industry jobs

A New Organizing Model
Worker centers in the Greater Boston area recognize that in order to be effective in improving working conditions, they must develop a new model combining community and workplace organizing:
- Organize workers who live in particular geographic areas
- Concentrate organizing efforts on particular industries
- Places that have both concentrations of workers and a particular industry are prime targets for organizing campaigns.

Concentrations of Worker Center Members
- East Boston, Chinatown, Roxbury, Brighton, and Jamaica Plain neighborhoods of Boston
- Chelsea, Somerville, Everett, Malden, Quincy, Framingham

Concentrations of Low-Wage Industries
- Construction Companies, Employment Contractors & Temp Agencies, Home Health Care Agencies, Hotels & Motels, Housecleaning Services, Janitorial Services, Landscaping Companies, and Restaurants
- Primarily located in Boston proper (Downtown and East Boston); North Shore (Peabody, Danvers, Beverly, Rockport, Salem); Northwest of Boston (Medford, Woburn, Burlington, Waltham); North of Boston (Lynn, Malden, Everett, Somerville, Cambridge); South Shore (Quincy, Braintree, Canton); and MetroWest (Framingham, Marlborough, Hudson)

Areas of Opportunity
- East Boston: Restaurants & Janitorial Services
- Malden, Everett, Somerville: Housecleaning & Janitorial Services
- Quincy: Home Health Care, Construction Companies & Restaurants
- Framingham: Housecleaning & Janitorial Services

Cartographer: Corey Kurtz, Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning
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Sources: Reference U.S.A. Business Data, Centro Presente, Chinese Progressive Association and MassCOSH Membership Databases, and 2000 U.S. Census Geography