



Giving the Gift of Language  
Promoting Immigrants as Assets to America

## **Immigrant Entrepreneurs and Neighborhood Revitalization: Studies of the Allston Village, East Boston and Fields Corner Neighborhoods in Boston, December 2005**

### **Fast Facts**

- Immigrants, by a significant margin, in every national Census since 1880, have been more likely to be self-employed than the native-born population. Likewise, the expansion of the immigrant population in Boston has led to an increase in immigrant-founded businesses.
- The immigrant entrepreneurs in Fields Corner, Allston Village and East Boston contribute to the economy and quality of life by:
  - Reviving commerce and investment in areas that had economically declined;
  - Providing needed products and services for immigrants and the native-born alike;
  - Addressing the particular needs of distinct ethnic niches;
  - Incubating new businesses and mentoring new entrepreneurs;
  - Attracting new customers;
  - Providing employment opportunities;
  - Enhancing the physical quality and appearance of buildings; and,
  - Enhancing public safety
- These businesses were most likely to be financed by the owners and their families and were not connected to mainstream business associations or government assistance programs.
- Entrepreneurs in Allston Village reflected the ethnic diversity of that area. Fields Corner and East Boston are less diverse and the businesses were founded by Vietnamese immigrants and Hispanics respectively.