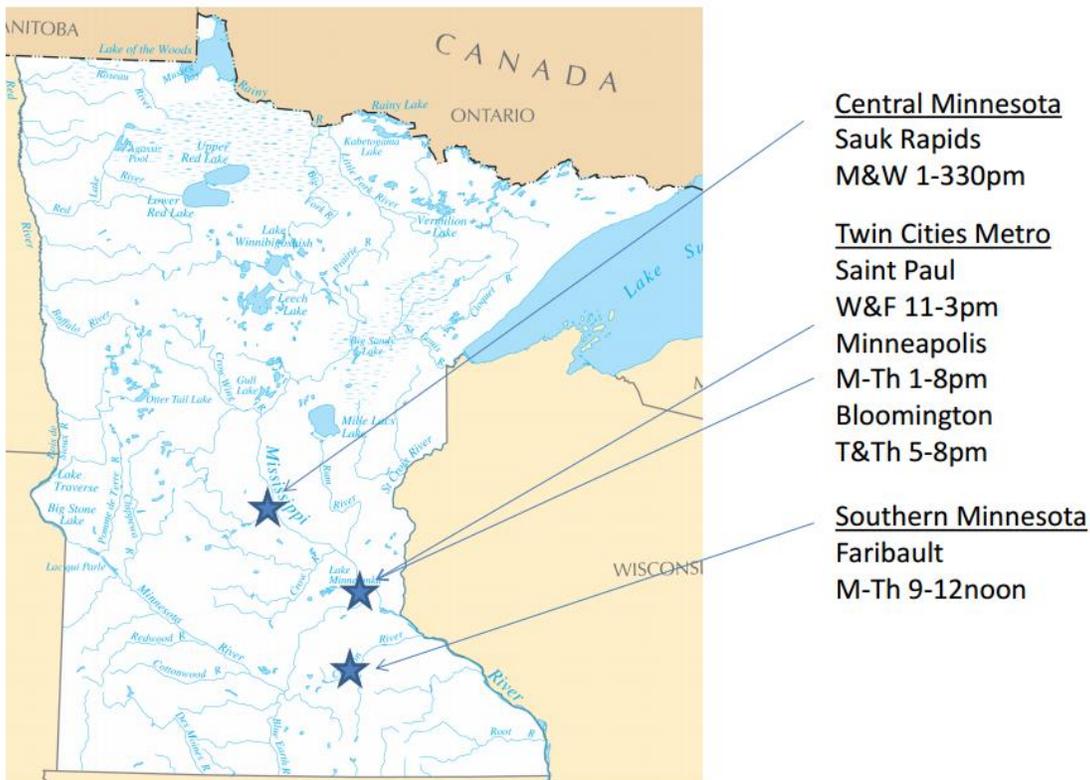




Section One: Program Overview (A)

Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD) Deaf ABE is a Community Based Organization (CBO) and Adult Basic Education (ABE) consortium that serves the state of Minnesota. The consortium has been identified as the first and only stand-alone Deaf Adult Basic Education program in the United States, as all other programs that serve deaf adults are affiliated with or are an integral part of mainstream, hearing programs. As of June 2015, the main office is located in Little Canada on Rice Street which houses administrative staff, a conference room, and hosts a computer lab twice a week. There are four classroom locations throughout the state in: Minneapolis, Bloomington, Sauk Rapids, and Faribault (see map below). These classrooms are provided through partnerships with Minneapolis Public Schools, Metro South, Hillside ABE, and Faribault ABE, respectively. CSD Deaf ABE has worked with these partner school districts with the common goal of providing quality education to deaf and hard of hearing adults within their system, which provides a language-rich environment for participants at these locations.



CSD Deaf ABE's staffing is mostly part-time with the exception of the full-time director:



Minnesota State Program Director (full-time): Aaron Gutzke

Adult Education Coordinator (part-time): Sarah Hoggard

Adult Education Teachers (part-time): Kelsey Bjorkman, Galinda Goss-Kuehn, Andrew Oehrlein, Julie Pleski, Brenna Reichle, and Shawn Vriezen

Office & Outreach Assistant (part-time): Mai Vue

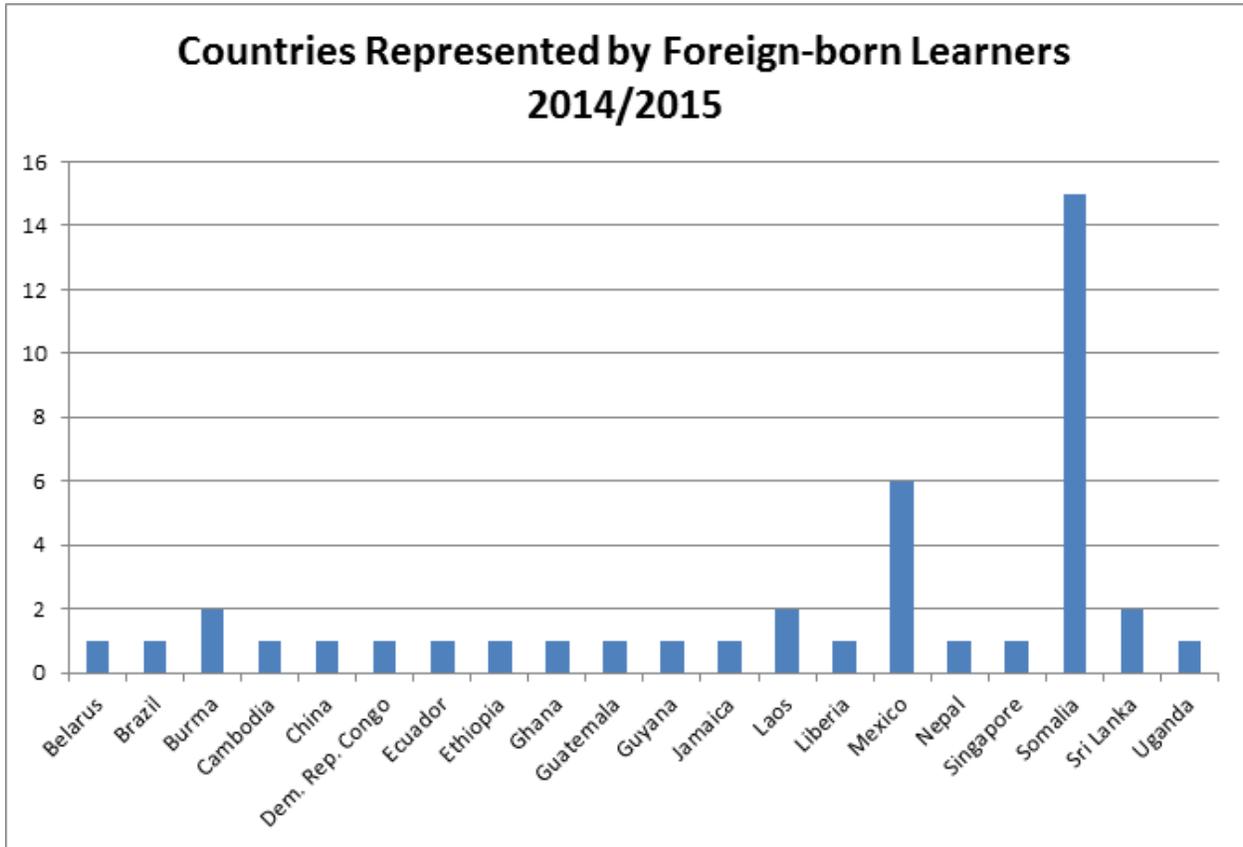
CSD Deaf ABE staff each have specialized areas of instruction which include, but are not limited to: English, math, citizenship, and driver's education. Our diverse staff is comprised of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and hearing individuals, and come from various ethnic and educational backgrounds. This forms a well-rounded team that understands the needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing learners.

During the fall of 2014, there were 19 volunteers working for CSD Deaf ABE. This newly-established program was spearheaded by the Coordinator, Sarah Hoggard, in 2014 and has successfully transformed the program into a collaborative effort to further educate deaf learners in the program. Volunteers are typically recruited each semester through local American Sign Language interpreting training programs (Saint Catherine University, Saint Paul College, and North Central University) and stay for an average of 10-15 hours during the semester for their course requirements. Since spring 2014, we have had one committed long-term volunteer, Rachael Urban, who is not affiliated with an interpreting training program. She tutors twice a week on a range of topics, including lipreading and speech. We recently became a Career Ready Internship site of St. Catherine University - which supports full-time students at the school in gaining a paid internship through the grant program at no cost to CSD. Two interns started in February 2015 and remained for the duration of the spring semester working 12 hours a week. We also have unpaid interns, some of whom are not related to interpreting programs, that expressed interest in working with deaf learners. Having the volunteers and interns working with our program has been a tremendous success!

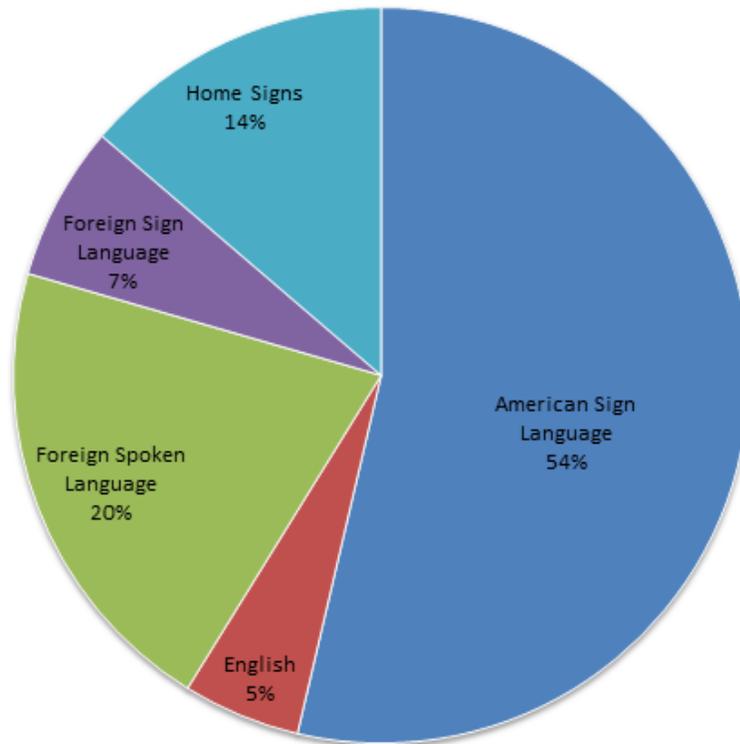
CSD Deaf ABE serves only Deaf and Hard of Hearing learners. Our program serves learners from a wide variety of backgrounds, but the majority (62%) are immigrants to the United States (see graphs below). Many of our learners have never experienced formal education and come to CSD Deaf ABE seeking to learn how to better communicate using sign language in addition to reading and writing the language of their newly adopted country. Some of our learners have continued their lifelong learning by continuing to attend our Adult Education classes after leaving a U.S. high school with an average second-grade reading level. While 38% of CSD Deaf ABE learners are American-born, they are still considered ESL students since English was typically not learned until they entered the traditional K-12 educational system. These students often



struggle with reading and writing due to the fact that they did not receive adequate instruction during their upbringing and because spoken language does not provide for the incidental learning that their hearing peers receive. CSD Deaf ABE strives to ensure that these students have the chance to learn English in a safe and nurturing environment, which would increase their self-confidence and ease of learning a language that they have never fully heard.



First Languages of Deaf ABE Learners 2014-2015



Educational Background of Deaf ABE Learners 2014-2015

