Today in Montgomery County, one in seven residents are potentially limited in their ability to speak, read and write the English language.

These individuals face isolation—from their families, from their neighbors, and from the opportunities of the community in which they live and work.

Like a golden key, adult English literacy can open the door to better job opportunities; to a parent's ability to become more engaged in their child's education; to healthy living and access to care; and to realizing one's full potential as an effective, contributing member of the community. When adults learn English and develop literacy skills, we strengthen the community as a whole.
MCAEL strengthens a vibrant network of over 60 adult English literacy providers who collectively employ over 1,500 paid and volunteer instructors and annually help over 20,000 adult learners improve their English literacy and workforce skills.

**OUR MISSION**
MCAEL is dedicated to strengthening the county-wide adult English literacy network with resources, training, collaborations and advocacy to support a thriving community and an optimal workforce.

**OUR VISION**
All adult residents are employable, engaged, and empowered by literacy to achieve their full potential.

All local businesses have access to an English literate workforce.

**WHAT WE DO**

**Build Capacity**

**Professional Development Institute** MCAEL provides training, technical assistance, and collaboration opportunities for adult English literacy program staff and instructors in order to strengthen their effectiveness and cultivate a professional community in Montgomery County.

**Provider and Instructor Networks** MCAEL brings together diverse individuals from throughout the county to share ideas and resources, and to work more effectively in partnership. MCAEL provides a shared infrastructure that reduces costs and leverages community resources, building on best practices and local knowledge.

**Community Grantmaking** In partnership with Montgomery County Government, MCAEL works to increase the availability of high-quality adult ESOL and literacy services through program grants that support identified community needs and improve the quality of services offered to diverse populations. Funded programs must demonstrate measurable outcomes, and participate in capacity building programs offered by MCAEL.

**Engage the Community**

**Knowledge Center** MCAEL serves as a community resource for information on adult English literacy in Montgomery County. Our Provider Directory of Services and Learner Bookmark are the County’s primary resources for information on available programs.

**Advocacy and Engagement**
MCAEL works to promote adult English literacy as a key investment opportunity that is central to family, community, and economic prosperity in Montgomery County.
HOW TO GET INVOLVED

**Adult English Literacy Providers**

**Organizations and Instructors can**

- **Meet** colleagues, get fresh ideas and resources, and collaborate through our network
- **Receive** training and technical assistance
- **Apply** for program funding

**Community Members can**

- **Volunteer** as a classroom instructor or tutor and receive teacher training through our Professional Development Institute
- **Join** our advocacy efforts — sign up today at connect@mcael.org
- **Donate** time or in-kind resources to make literacy possible

**Businesses can**

- **Strengthen** their current and future workforce by supporting worksite and community based programs
- **Donate** financial or in-kind resources
- **Encourage** employee charitable giving, volunteerism, and educational brown-bags on literacy — we can help

Letters from Our Learners

“My name is Simone. I am a single mom, worker and immigrant living in this wonderful country. I think the most important challenge for me is to learn English. It is necessary in all levels of my life. First at home with my daughter, who is in kindergarten and starts to speak much more English. At her school with the teacher. At my work with my boss and every place I go.”

“My name is Sung Sim. This class is very important and I need to learn English. I can not communicate with the people in this society without learning English and very inconvenient to live in this country as if I am in deafness. Even if I am old I eagerly expect to speak English fluently in near future after learning with passion.”

“My name is Oscar. To advance and better my life and my family’s life I needed to take the first step: to learn English right away. My son started second grade this year and I take him to school everyday. I can talk to his teacher...We pronounce together the new words and numbers that he learns in school and I just love the feeling that comes when you can share moments like this in your family. Thank you America for giving me the tools needed for a better life through the ESOL classes.”

Please visit our website: [www.mcael.org](http://www.mcael.org)