

# MCAEL GRANTS FOR ADULT ESOL CLASSES

2023-2024



The goal of the MCAEL grants program is to increase the availability of adult ESOL services that support identified community needs and diverse populations while also supporting improvement of the quality of services. MCAEL is pleased to partner once again with the Montgomery County Government to offer grant support in FY24 for programs during the period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. MCAEL's priorities for this year are to support the expansion of services in areas where adult ESOL learning opportunities are scarce (in particular Upcounty and East County), for populations that lack access, and weekend and in-person classes.

These priorities are identified through an annual analysis of data collected from providers. MCAEL also supports provision of childcare and transportation to address these barriers to attending class. In addition to the larger Program and Access Grant categories, MCAEL offers Access Small Grants to encourage more community and faith-based organizations to provide adult English classes.

**\$1,791,475**

TOTAL FUNDING  
REQUESTED

**21**

ORGANIZATIONS  
FUNDED FOR 27  
PROGRAMS

**\$1,425,000**

TOTAL FUNDING  
AWARDED

## **Grant Partners**

Ana A. Brito Foundation, Inc.  
Briggs Center for Faith and Action  
CASA  
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, Inc.  
Chinese American Parent Association of Montgomery County (CAPA-MC)  
Chinese Culture and Community Service Center (CCACC)  
City of Light Helping Hands  
Classroom 2 Community (formerly Literacy Council of Montgomery County)  
Community Reach of Montgomery County, Inc.  
Covenant Life Church  
Ethiopian Community Center

Family Services, Inc./ Sheppard Pratt  
Francophone Africans Alliance  
The George B. Thomas Learning Academy, Inc.  
Identity, Inc.  
IMPACT Silver Spring  
Mill Creek Parish United Methodist Church  
Rockville Seniors, Inc.  
Seneca Creek Community Church  
Vietnamese American Services  
Washington New Covenant Fellowship Church

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## ANA A. BRITO FOUNDATION, INC.

ENGLISH LITERACY PROGRAM AT EPWORTH  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
**\$48,440**

The goal of the AABFI English Literacy Program at Epworth United Methodist Church of Gaithersburg is to provide and facilitate English learning opportunities for immigrant and/or financially vulnerable persons of limited English proficiency in northern Montgomery County with six levels of ESOL classes and support services.



## CASA

CASA LIFE SKILLS ESOL PROGRAM  
**\$191,476**

CASA's Life Skills ESOL Program seeks to improve participants' listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English so that they may become more financially independent, increase their employability, better integrate into U.S. society and achieve their personal goals.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON, INC

ESOL PROGRAM  
**\$108,000**

Catholic Charities' ESOL program provides in-person and virtual English-language education to limited English proficient adults in Upcounty, Mid-County, and Silver Spring and to individuals who participate virtually. As a result of their participation in the ESOL program, learners more effectively engage their English skills in practical activities such as accessing health care, finding and maintaining employment, and other essential tasks.



## CLASSROOM 2 COMMUNITY

FORMERLY LITERACY COUNCIL OF  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

ESL CLASSROOM PROGRAM  
**\$210,000**

Classroom 2 Community seeks to advance social and economic equity for under-served adults through academic instruction and workforce development.



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## COMMUNITY REACH OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INC.

### LANGUAGE OUTREACH PROGRAM \$135,000

Community Reach of Montgomery County's Language Outreach Program (LOP) is a unique, family based ESOL program for non-English speaking adult residents of Montgomery County. LOP offers tutoring and English language enrichment for the children of LOP's adult students. The goal of LOP is to help immigrants obtain the level of English needed to succeed in the Montgomery County community, thus improving their quality of life.



## ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

### AFRICAN IMMIGRANT VOCATIONAL ESOL PROGRAM \$41,000

The Ethiopian Community Center offers three levels of vocational English literacy classes to Montgomery County's limited English proficient (LEP) African immigrant residents living in Takoma Park's Maple Avenue corridor and Piney Branch Road. The goal of the program is to equip African immigrants in low wage and low skill jobs with employment-related English language skills that will allow them to successfully access educational and workforce development opportunities.

## FAMILY SERVICES, INC./ SHEPPARD PRATT

### ESOL PROGRAM \$278,849

Family Services, Inc. offers English literacy classes to adults who speak less than perfect English in the Montgomery County area, so that they can be equipped to converse and engage in essential activities, communicate their needs, and obtain gainful employment. We plan to offer complimentary childcare for those attending our in-person classes at one of our MCPS sites.



## FAMILY SERVICES, INC./ SHEPPARD PRATT

### FAMILY DISCOVERY CENTER \$40,352

The Family Discovery Center (FDC) is a unique, comprehensive, multi-generational family education program that is located in Rockville. FDC serves families with children from birth until 4 years of age. The FDC helps young parents 1) attain educational goals, 2) find a pathway to employment, and 3) increase basic financial literacy and life skills to improve self-sufficiency, while providing age and developmentally appropriate school-readiness programming for their children.



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## ROCKVILLE SENIORS, INC.

### ROCKVILLE SENIOR CENTER ENGLISH PROGRAM \$57,000

RSC is uniquely situated to serve seniors in this community as it provides essential, functional speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills to senior adults in a supportive and inclusive environment. The program offers door-to-door bus transportation and congregate meal service to support learners in socializing and interacting with the broader Center programs and the community. Confidence and skills developed in class aid learners in making new friends and becoming integral community members.



## SENECA CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

### WEEKDAY ESOL PROGRAM (NEW) \$70,000

Seneca Creek Community Church will offer new, more intensive ESOL programming during the week to meet the English needs of those unable to attend Saturday classes. This program provides opportunities for the underserved Upcounty residents of Gaithersburg, Montgomery Village, and Germantown to grow and prosper through increased English proficiency. The program aims to empower learners, whether it is their first time learning English or if they have been in the process for years, to feel more connected to their community, to be more involved, to be encouraged in their personal and professional development, and to increase their social and financial well-being.



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## BRIGGS CENTER FOR FAITH & ACTION

### ESOL PROGRAM

**\$20,000**

The goal of Briggs Center ESOL program is to improve the Limited English Proficient (LEP) learner's ability and confidence listening, speaking, reading and writing in English, with an emphasis on vocabulary, grammar, conversation, pronunciation and comprehension. The target population are LEP adults living and/or working in or near Montgomery County, MD.



## CHINESE AMERICAN PARENT ASSOCIATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY (CAPA-MC).

### ITEACH

**\$8,700**

The CAPA-MC iTeach Program provides critical services to Asian American Communities by providing ESOL classes to low-income seniors, new immigrants, and parents so that they can successfully integrate into American life and lead a meaningful life. The iTeach Program has attracted more than 150 students. The program is carried out by bilingual student and adult volunteers, trained by professional ESOL instructors. The program is open to all immigrants who are county residents; both in-person and Zoom classes are offered to create more flexibility for students.



## CASA

### WORKFORCE ESOL PROGRAM

**\$19,000**

CASA's Workforce ESOL Program empowers day laborers to obtain higher-paying and/or more stable employment, communicate effectively with co-workers and employers, and understand workplace safety and workers' rights. The target population is low-income Limited English Proficient (LEP) immigrant workers in Montgomery County who visit CASA's Montgomery County Welcome Centers to access employment and other related services.



## CHINESE CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER (CCACC).

### ADULT ENGLISH LITERACY PROGRAM

**\$18,000**

CCACC's English Literacy Program assists seniors and immigrants in Montgomery County in overcoming their English language barrier, so that they will become active participants and contributors to the community.



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## COMMUNITY REACH OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INC.

### LANGUAGE OUTREACH CONVERSATION CLASSES

**\$16,907**

The goals of these Conversation Sessions are: to help our learners (LOP students and Interfaith Clothing Center clients who are primarily low-income, non-English-speaking immigrant residents of Montgomery County) with English language skills; to improve conversational listening and pronunciation; and to reinforce classroom learning during the semester and/or reduce learning loss between semesters for current LOP students.



## COVENANT LIFE CHURCH

### ESOL PROGRAM

**\$20,000**

Covenant Life Church provides a family friendly ESOL program for a diverse Gaithersburg community of adult students. The program aims to improve participants' English proficiency in listening, reading, writing and speaking through classes, conversation, and community integration activities.



## FAMILY SERVICES, INC./SHEPPARD PRATT

### CONVERSATION CLASSES

**\$11,380**

The Conversation Classes at Family Services Inc, give confidence to learners as they speak with native speakers in the community; this confidence will inspire learners to apply for better paying jobs, advocate for their children at school, or complete their citizenship.

## IDENTITY, INC

### ENGLISH LITERACY FOR DISCONNECTED

YOUTH

**\$20,000**

The goal of Identity's English Literacy for Disconnected Youth Program is to provide basic level ESOL learning opportunities to disconnected youth, aged 16-25, with extremely low levels of English proficiency, in order to support their educational, work and life goals and to encourage continued English language learning.



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## IMPACT SILVER SPRING

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

**\$20,000**

Impact Silver Spring's English Language Acquisition classes have seen a rise in demand in the local Long Branch immigrant communities. The program aims to remove barriers to obtaining English language skills and provide free, accessible English language acquisition to this underserved community, supporting residents' capacity to grow their social and economic assets.



## SENECA CREEK COMMUNITY

### CHURCH

#### SATURDAY ESOL CLASSES

**\$20,000**

The Saturday classes provides opportunities for the underserved Upcounty residents of Gaithersburg, Montgomery Village, and Germantown to grow and prosper through increased English proficiency. The program aims to empower learners to participate fully in their community, encourages the pursuit of personal and professional development, and increases social and financial well-being.



## THE GEORGE B. THOMAS LEARNING ACADEMY, INC.

### ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

**\$9,854**

The George B. Thomas Learning Academy's adult language classes are for parents whose children attend Saturday School. The Adult Literacy Program encourages parents to be more involved and effectively support and advocate for their children.



## VIETNAMESE AMERICAN SERVICES

### CITIZENSHIP CLASS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**\$14,340**

Vietnamese American Services (VAS) offers specialty English classes for the lower-socioeconomic Vietnamese American community within the Silver Spring area. This program aims to prepare learners for specific examinations or interviews as needed. Classes range from prepping for the U.S. Citizenship Test to studying English for workforce development to residents with Limited English Proficiency or immigrants.



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## VIETNAMESE AMERICAN SERVICES

### CONVERSATION ENGLISH CLASS FOR ADULT LEARNERS **\$17,640**

Vietnamese American Services (VAS) offers drop-in English conversation classes for the lower socioeconomic Vietnamese American community within the Silver Spring area. This program serves as an opportunity for the underserved population to learn conversational English skills, overcome language barriers and further engage with their community. Classes are designed to accommodate both a beginning and higher beginning student, with a focus on everyday conversational skills.

## WASHINGTON NEW COVENANT FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

### ESL PROGRAM **\$12,720**

The NCFC ESL program has been providing English learning opportunities to the immigrant population in Germantown since 2016. We strive to strengthen our student's English proficiency in order to help them integrate and thrive in their local communities.



## 2023-2024 ACCESS GRANTS

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## CITY OF LIGHT HELPING HANDS

CITY OF LIGHT HELPING HANDS ESOL

**\$6,000**

City of Light Helping Hands educates community members on basic reading and writing in English in order to encourage participation in community activities and motivate community members to have basic English language communication.

## FRANCOPHONE AFRICANS ALLIANCE

ESOL AT FAA

**\$5,000**

The Francophone Africans Alliance, Inc exists to encourage, strengthen, and sustain the active engagement of Africans, primarily Francophones, in community affairs through information and education. Language is oftentimes a barrier to community members feeling part of the larger community and this program will equip them with the necessary tools to navigate their daily lives.

## MILL CREEK PARISH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ESOL PROGRAM

**\$5,342**

Mill Creek Parish provides adult learners with opportunities to learn, study and practice English through various levels of adult ESOL classes and community events. The program is offered as a direct response to a stated need for more English classes for parents of students in elementary and middle schools in the Derwood community surrounding our church. In addition to English classes for adults, we also work to connect learners with various community resources including food distribution, education and tutoring support, childcare, technology resources, and more.



## 2023-2024 SMALL ACCESS GRANTS

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## OUR PROCESS

Funding decisions are made by a volunteer Grants Review Panel composed of community members. The panel members are selected to represent a diversity of experience and expertise in one or more of the following: the local community and community needs, nonprofit management adult ESOL, adult education and grant making.

### Timeline

#### January/February

MCAEL grant guidelines released; Grant Information session held

#### Mid-March

Appointments available with MCAEL staff to answer questions about the grant application forms

#### Early-April

Application deadline

#### May/June

- Grant Panel members review applications & interview applicants
- Panel meets to develop funding recommendations
- MCAEL Board reviews/approves funding recommendations

#### June

Applicants are notified in writing of the MCAEL board's final funding decision.

### 2023-2024 Grant Review Panel

*MCAEL thanks the panel of community members who donated extensive time and energy to review and analyze the grant applications.*

Abigail Wacker	Jean Lewis
Agar Mbianda	Kaori Hirakawa
Alex Galen	Karin Leff
Barbara Crews	Kia Booker
Carlos Iglesias-Lopez	Rivka Yerushalmi
Francisco Cartagena	Rosemary Botchway
Fred Seo*	Stacy Parkinson*

MCAEL Board Member\*

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