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 for programs during the period July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. MCAEL's priorities are to support longstanding and new programs, including the expansion of services in areas where adult ESOL learning opportunities are scarce, 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.

$1,768,315 TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED
24 ORGANIZATIONS FUNDED FOR 29 PROGRAMS
$1,465,853 TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED

Grant Partners

Ana A. Brito Foundation, Inc.
The Briggs Center for Faith and Action
CASA, Inc.
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, Inc.
Chinese American Parent Association of Montgomery County (CAPA-MC)
Chinese Culture and Community Service Center (CCACC)
Classroom 2 Community (formerly Literacy Council of Montgomery County)
Community Reach of Montgomery County, Inc.
Covenant Life Church, Inc.
Ethiopian Community Center, Inc.
Francophone Africans Alliance, Inc.
Gaithersburg Beloved Community Initiative, Inc.
The George B. Thomas Learning Academy, Inc.
Germantown Global Connection
Identity, Inc.
IMPACT Silver Spring
Islamic Society of Washington Area (ISWA)
Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA)
Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association
Mill Creek Parish United Methodist Church
Seneca Creek Community Church
Solutions in Hometown Connections
Vietnamese American Services
WUMCO Help, Inc.

See the County's full directory of adult English classes: mcael.org/directory
For a description of grant types please see: mcael.org/grants
ANA A. BRITO FOUNDATION, INC.

ENGLISH LITERACY PROGRAM AT EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

$63,688

The AABFI English Literacy Program at Epworth United Methodist Church of Gaithersburg provides and facilitates 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, INC.

CASA LIFE SKILLS ESOL PROGRAM

$200,233

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

$88,696

Catholic Charities' ESOL program provides in-person and virtual English-language education to limited English proficient adults in Upcounty, Mid-County, and Silver Spring. As a result of their participation, 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

$233,527

Classroom 2 Community seeks to advance social and economic equity for under-served adults through academic instruction and workforce development.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Program Title</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Reach of Montgomery County, Inc.</td>
<td>Language Outreach Program</td>
<td>$141,251</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopian Community Center, Inc.</td>
<td>African Immigrant Vocational ESOL Program</td>
<td>$46,000</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Social Service Agency</td>
<td>Learning English Together</td>
<td>$314,834</td>
<td>The Learning English Together program offers English literacy classes to adults who speak less than perfect English throughout Montgomery County, enabling them to converse and engage in essential activities, communicate their needs, and obtain gainful employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seneca Creek Community Church</td>
<td>ESOL Program Classes</td>
<td>$79,008</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This is a hybrid English language instruction program for adult beginning literacy level learners who are U.S. newcomer residents living in Montgomery County (with an emphasis on the White Oak neighborhood). Instruction will take place online two times per week for 3 hours, and once-a-week in-person workshops will teach students about the resources, services and culture of their new neighborhoods.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANA A. BRITO FOUNDATION, INC.</td>
<td>LANDING PAD CONVERSATION CLASSES</td>
<td>$7,960</td>
<td>Landing Pad Conversation Classes will be held in association with the larger programmatic evening level classes already in place. These conversational classes will provide an access point for new students interested in English classes beyond the registration close period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE BRIGGS CENTER FOR FAITH &amp; ACTION</td>
<td>ESOL PROGRAM</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>This program is intended 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 -- for adults living and/or working in or near Montgomery County, MD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASA, INC.</td>
<td>WORKFORCE ESOL PROGRAM</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>CASA’s Workforce ESOL Program supports and 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHINESE AMERICAN PARENT ASSOCIATION OF MONTGOMERY</td>
<td>ITEACH</td>
<td>$8,700</td>
<td>The CAPA-MC iTeach Program provides critical services to Asian American Communities by offering ESOL classes to low-income seniors, new immigrants, and parents so they can successfully integrate into American life and lead a meaningful life.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2024-2025 ACCESS GRANTS**

See the County’s full directory of adult English classes at: [mcael.org/directory](http://mcael.org/directory)

For a description of grant types please see: [mcael.org/grants](http://mcael.org/grants)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHINESE CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER (CCACC)</strong></td>
<td>Adult English Literacy Program</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNITY REACH OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INC.</strong></td>
<td>Language Outreach Program</td>
<td>$19,263</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community Reach of Montgomery County's Language Outreach Program (LOP) classes are open to adult residents of Montgomery County. The goals of the Conversation Classes are to help learners 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COVENANT LIFE CHURCH, INC.</strong></td>
<td>ESOL Program</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Covenant Life Church's ESOL program works in partnership with South Lake Elementary School to provide English classes to school parents, family members, and those that live in the neighborhoods that surround the school. The ESOL program helps adult learners to improve English listening, reading, writing and speaking skills, emphasizing practical communication skills that will help learners thrive in their communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRANCOPHONE AFRICANS ALLIANCE, INC.</strong></td>
<td>ESOL at FAA</td>
<td>$8,234</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Francophone Africans Alliance 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.

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**2024-2025 ACCESS GRANTS**

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For a description of grant types please see: [mcael.org/grants](http://mcael.org/grants)
**THE GEORGE B. THOMAS LEARNING ACADEMY, INC.**

**ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM**

$11,841

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.

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**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 ACQUISITION**

$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 classes to this underserved community, supporting residents' capacity to grow their social and economic assets.

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**MARYLAND VIETNAMESE MUTUAL ASSOCIATION**

**NEW AMERICAN ADVOCACY SERVICES**

$10,185

The organization aims to address the needs of the Vietnamese American residents in Montgomery County with limited English proficiency. This is an online English drop-in learning program for Vietnamese Americans so that they can work and lead independent lives.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SENeca Creek Community Church</strong></th>
<th><strong>Vietnamese American Services</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESOL Access Classes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Citizenship and Workforce Development</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$20,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,340</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seneca Creek Community Church (SCCC) offers vital weekend classes, broadening access to English literacy for underserved Upcounty residents in Gaithersburg, Montgomery Village, and Germantown. The program aims to partner with learners to support their personal and professional development, enhancing their social and financial well-being.

Vietnamese American Services (VAS) offers specialty English classes for underserved Vietnamese communities with low socioeconomic status within and surrounding the Silver Spring area. The program aims to address specific economic needs such as preparing for examinations and interviews.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Vietnamese American Services</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conversational English for Adult Learners</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$17,640</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vietnamese American Services (VAS) offers drop-in English conversational classes for low-income, limited English proficient Vietnamese communities throughout Montgomery County. This program serves as an opportunity for underserved populations to learn conversational English skills, overcoming language barriers and fostering their confidence to engage within their wider community.

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**2024-2025 Access Grants**

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GAITHERSBURG BELOVED COMMUNITY INITIATIVE, INC.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION PROGRAM
$7,000

The Gaithersburg Beloved Community Initiative (GBCI) offers an English conversation group that meets weekly, providing an opportunity for adult English language learners to improve their fluency by engaging in language development activities with older adult volunteers.

GERMANTOWN GLOBAL CONNECTION

LET'S READ! ENGLISH LITERACY PROGRAM
$6,980

Free English conversation classes are offered to the non-native speaking parents of children enrolled in our highly-successful Let's Read! Literacy Tutoring Program for below and well-below grade level 2nd graders in the West Montgomery Village area. These classes provide a two-for-one opportunity for non-native speaking parents (about 75% of families) and their neighbors: while their child learns how to read, they can spend the same hour at the same site improving their speaking skills for better acculturation into North American culture and more adeptly navigating their child's education in the public school system.

ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF THE WASHINGTON AREA

ESOL CLASSES AT ISWA
$7,464

ISWA offers culturally sensitive ESOL classes for newcomers and community members in East County. The overarching goal of the program is to facilitate language acquisition and promote integration among people of diverse backgrounds and to nurture a stronger sense of community.

MILL CREEK PARISH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ESOL PROGRAM
$6,509

This program provides adult learners with opportunities to learn, study, and practice English through various levels of adult ESOL classes and community events. This program 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.
WUMCO HELP, INC.

ESOL PROGRAM

$7,500

WUMCO's ESOL program will serve western Montgomery County, where there are no ESOL opportunities within approximately a 15 mile radius. The program will primarily serve low income, Spanish-speaking residents.
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

2024-2025 Grants Review Panel

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

Abigail Wacker  Karin Leff
Agar Mbianda  Kia Booker
Alex Galen  Nancy Newton
Barbara Crews  Rosemary Botchway
Francisco Cartagena  Samantha Gloss
Fred Seo*  Stacy Parkinson*
Jean Lewis  Mary Gallagher

Stacy Parkinson*
MCAEL Board Member*

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