



MCAEL GRANTS FOR ADULT ESOL CLASSES

2026-2027

The MCAEL Grants Program increases the availability and quality of adult ESOL services in Montgomery County. MCAEL supports both longstanding and new programs, ensuring that learners have high-standard instruction with reduced barriers to access. We prioritize the expansion of services in areas where adult ESOL learning opportunities are scarce.

Funds to support grants for English language programs county-wide are provided by the Montgomery County Government, and MCAEL is pleased to partner with Montgomery County once again to provide grants to 30 adult ESOL programs for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Grant priorities are identified through an [annual analysis of data](#) collected from programs. In addition to the larger Program and Access Grant categories, MCAEL offers Pathway Grants to encourage more community and faith-based organizations to provide adult English classes to their communities.

\$2,393,609

TOTAL FUNDING
REQUESTED

23

ORGANIZATIONS FUNDED
FOR 30 PROGRAMS

\$1,550,000

TOTAL FUNDING
AWARDED

Grant Partners

Ana A. Brito Foundation
CASA
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington
Chinese Culture and Community Service Center
Classroom 2 Community
Clifton Park Baptist Church
Community Reach of Montgomery County
Covenant Life Church
Ethiopian Community Center
Faith United Methodist Church
Francophone Africans Alliance
Gaithersburg Beloved Community Initiative

Germantown Global Connection
Identity
JSSA
Latino Early Care and Education Coalition
Mill Creek Parish United Methodist Church
Mujer Fuerza y Coraje
Project Access
Seneca Creek Community Church
Solutions in Hometown Connections
Vietnamese American Services
WUMCO Help

ANA A. BRITO FOUNDATION

ENGLISH LITERACY PROGRAM AT EPWORTH UMC

\$63,688

Provides and facilitates English learning opportunities for immigrant and/or financially vulnerable persons of limited English proficiency in Upcounty Montgomery County with five levels of ESOL classes, computer literacy, childcare, tutoring and support services.



CASA

CASA LIFE SKILLS ESOL PROGRAM

\$189,248

Improves participants' English listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills so they can 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

ESOL PROGRAM

\$81,600

Offers in-person, virtual, and hybrid English language education to adults with limited English proficiency in Upcounty, Mid-County, and Silver Spring.



CLASSROOM 2 COMMUNITY

ESL PROGRAM

\$214,845

Builds English proficiency, digital literacy, and workforce readiness, enabling learners to transition into career pathways and achieve economic mobility.

2026-2027 PROGRAM GRANTS

See the County's full directory of adult English classes at: mcael.org/directory

For a description of grant types please see: mcael.org/grants


Transportation


Childcare



CLIFTON PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

ENGLISH PROGRAM

\$86,007

Strengthens English proficiency among low-income, primarily Spanish-speaking immigrant adults so they can navigate daily life with greater confidence and independence.



COMMUNITY REACH OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

LANGUAGE OUTREACH PROGRAM

\$126,646

Improves functional English communication skills, increases learners' confidence in using English in their daily lives, and supports improved community integration and quality of life through better communication.



ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

AFRICAN COMMUNITY ESOL PROGRAM

\$44,929

Provides three levels of vocational English literacy classes for limited English proficient African immigrant residents in Montgomery County to equip participants in low-wage, low-skill jobs with employment-focused English skills to improve access to education and workforce opportunities.

JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY

LEARNING ENGLISH TOGETHER

\$277,802

Provides adults in Montgomery County with essential English skills needed for daily life, communication, and employment.



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JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY

FAMILY DISCOVERY CENTER
\$46,038

Strengthens English-language instruction for pregnant women and parents of children ages six weeks to five years at our Rockville-based Family Discovery Center.



PROJECT ACCESS

COMMUNITY-BASED ESOL PROGRAM AT
GATEWAY APARTMENTS
\$29,022

Provides classes to better meet the growing demand for English language instruction in Gaithersburg, particularly for residents of Gateway Apartments.



SENECA CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

ESOL PROGRAM CLASSES
\$79,008

Serves newcomers with limited English proficiency in Upcounty Montgomery County through the Community Hope Center, SCCC's community services arm, and a Montgomery County Service Consolidation Hub — where learners can access English classes alongside a pantry, free health screenings, and social case management under one roof.



SOLUTIONS IN HOMETOWN CONNECTIONS

ENGLISH LITERACY INSTRUCTION FOR REFUGEE
& NEWCOMER WOMEN
\$46,000

Removes barriers the target population often encounters that prevent them from accessing traditional ESL Programs including; non-child-friendly classes, lack of transportation, lack of prior educational experience, sensitivity to mixed gender classes, low confidence in the ability to learn.



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ANA A. BRITO FOUNDATION

ENGLISH CONNECTION CLASSES

\$21,420

Provides and facilitates drop-in English learning opportunities for immigrant and/or financially vulnerable persons of limited English proficiency in a MCAEL Equity Focus Area in up-county Montgomery County with five levels of ESOL classes, computer literacy, childcare, tutoring and support services.



CASA

WORKFORCE ESOL PROGRAM

\$20,000

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.

CHINESE CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER (CCACC)

ADULT ENGLISH CLASSES

\$20,000

Assists seniors and immigrants in Montgomery County to overcome their English language barrier, so that they will become active participants and contributors to the community.

COMMUNITY REACH OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

LANGUAGE OUTREACH PROGRAM

CONVERSATION CLASSES

\$20,000

Offers English language instruction in an informal, supportive group setting, helping learners gain confidence using English in their daily lives, supports improved community integration and quality of life through better communication, and provides a more convenient and viable for students whose schedules may not be flexible enough to commit to a formal, intensive regimen of ESL classes.



2026-2027 ACCESS GRANTS

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COVENANT LIFE CHURCH

ESOL PROGRAM

\$20,000

Helps adult learners to improve English listening, reading, writing and speaking skills, emphasizing practical communication skills that will help learners thrive in their communities. In addition, our ESOL program aims to be family friendly by offering a childcare program and holding special events that family members are invited to attend.



FRANCOPHONE AFRICANS ALLIANCE

INTEGRATION PATHWAY ESOL &
CONVERSATION PROGRAM

\$14,737

Delivers accessible ESOL and conversation-based English instruction through its Integration Pathway in Eastern Montgomery County and serves a diverse immigrant population, primarily Francophone African learners, focused on building practical communication skills for real-life situations.



GAITHERSBURG BELOVED COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUP

\$8,895

Helps adult English language learners improve their English fluency-vocabulary, reading, pronunciation, and conversation through weekly language development classes with older adult volunteers. The program aims to enhance language skills, build community, and connect participants to local resources.



IDENTITY

ADULT BASIC ENGLISH FOR EVERYDAY LIVING
AND WORK PROGRAM

\$14,540

Provides basic level ESOL learning for adults with extremely low levels of English proficiency to support improved communication skills for daily life and work, and a base upon which to continue English language learning.

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IDENTITY

ENGLISH LITERACY FOR YOUTH PROGRAM

\$20,000

Provides basic level ESOL learning opportunities to young adults (18-26) with extremely low levels of English proficiency to support their educational, work and life goals and to encourage continued English Language learning. Classes are provided to clients through the Up-county and Down-county Youth Opportunity Centers.



NEW

LATINO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COALITION

WORKFORCE ENGLISH FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

\$16,468

Provides accessible, hybrid English instruction focused on basic workplace communication, helping participants overcome language barriers that prevent them from entering or advancing in the childcare workforce.

SENECA CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

ESOL ACCESS CLASSES

\$20,000

Offers Saturday classes to adult newcomers with limited English proficiency in Upcounty Montgomery County through the Community Hope Center (CHC), the community services arm of SCCC, and a Montgomery County Service Consolidation Hub — where learners can also access free childcare during ESOL Access classes, food support, health screenings, and case management under the same roof.



NEW

VIETNAMESE AMERICAN SERVICES

CITIZENSHIP AND WORKFORCE ENGLISH CLASSES FOR ADULTS

\$19,780

Provides targeted Adult ESOL classes focused on workforce readiness and U.S. citizenship preparation for low-income and limited English proficient Vietnamese adults in Montgomery County

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NEW

VIETNAMESE AMERICAN SERVICES

ENGLISH CONVERSATIONAL CLASSES FOR VIETNAMESE AMERICANS

\$18,580

Provides conversational English education to low-income, limited English competent Vietnamese people in Montgomery County, mainly in the Silver Spring and East County zip codes.

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NEW

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BEGINNING ESL PROGRAM
\$4,515

Serves the needs of the local immigrant community and better utilizes our church as a community center, conveniently located on Montrose Road near 270.



GERMANTOWN GLOBAL CONNECTION

LET'S READ! LITERACY TUTORING PROGRAM
PARENT ESOL
\$7,460

Supports integrated family literacy programming that provides English language instruction for parents while their second-grade children receive tutoring through the Let's Read program!

NEW

MILL CREEK PARISH UMC

ESOL PROGRAM
\$5,096

Serves mid-county adult English learners to improve both speaking and written language skills.



MUJER FUERZA Y CORAJE

SUMMER ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES
\$6,176

Supports Latina women and their families in improving their quality of life through education and the provision of resources in Montgomery County.



2026-2027 PATHWAY GRANTS

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Transportation



Childcare



NEW

WUMCO HELP

ESOL PROGRAM

\$7,500

Serves western Montgomery County where there are no ESOL opportunities within an approximately 15-mile radius.

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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; Grants 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

2026-2027 Grants Review Panel

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

Alex Galen
Barbara Crews
Karin Leff
Kavita Sethi*
Kia Booker Konde
Mary Gallagher

Morgana Finney
Raul Elias Ayala*
Rivka Yerushalmi
Samantha Gloss
Sean Klein*
Stacy Parkinson

MCAEL Board Member*

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