For immediate release:

Media Contact: Emma Starr
estarr@mcael.org

MCAEL ANNOUNCES $1,425,000 IN GRANTS TO SUPPORT ADULT ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

21 Local Organizations Receive Funds to Help Improve Quality of Life for Thousands

(July 10, 2023, Rockville, MD) The Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL), announces $1,425,000 in grants awarded to support adult English language learning programs across Montgomery County. Funding for the grants is provided in partnership with the Montgomery County Government, with the support of County Executive Marc Elrich and the Montgomery County Council.

Adult English language learners experience life-changing benefits as participants in these programs, from deceptively small accomplishments like being able to ask for help in the supermarket, to large ones, like attaining better-paying jobs.

"I understand better when someone talks to me," explains Karen, who's been taking classes through Family Services, Inc. in Gaithersburg. "I feel more confident having a conversation by phone (like doing a medical appointment or requesting information). I have improved my writing. I write emails and notes to my child's teacher now. English classes helped me to get a job."
Larissa, who moved from Cameroon last year, describes not knowing the language as nerve-wracking and lonely. She was afraid to go out. As she describes it, “I was afraid, and I was ashamed.” Larissa enrolled in English language class at CASA, and soon after she began, she “started to have some hope.” “English,” she says, “Was my key.”

The goal of the MCAEL grants program is to increase the availability of adult ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) services that support identified community needs and diverse populations, while also improving the quality of those services.

This year, grants have been awarded to 21 organizations that provide 27 programs across Montgomery County. MCAEL thanks the panel of community members who donated extensive time and energy to review and evaluate the grant applications. In addition, MCAEL is actively pursuing the expansion of services to communities where adult ESOL learning opportunities are scarce, and addresses barriers to access, like childcare and transportation.

A detailed announcement featuring this year’s grant awardees is available on the MCAEL website.

**About MCAEL:**
MCAEL is a community coalition of public, nonprofit, and business partners that support nearly 60 adult ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), more than 1,000 instructors and staff, and approximately 11,000 adult learners. MCAEL’s mission is to strengthen and build adult English language learning programs and instruction to further individual and family success at work, school and in the community. For more information, please visit [www.mcael.org](http://www.mcael.org).