MCAEL ANNOUNCES $1,465,853 IN GRANTS TO SUPPORT ADULT ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

24 Local Organizations Receive Funds to Help Thousands Learn English

(June 18, 2024, Rockville, MD) The Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL), announces $1,465,853 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 being able to navigate the health system and their children’s schools, to attaining better-paying jobs.

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.

Blanca, who was a teacher in Guatemala and is now a housekeeper, is currently enrolled in her third consecutive English language class. She says learning English has “made communication with doctors, teachers – everyone – easier. I have more confidence and am able to speak clearly with others.” Blanca hopes to eventually
get a better-paying job so that “I can continue to raise my family in the U.S. while also supporting those still living in Guatemala. But my most important goal is to see my three children graduate from college.”

This year, grants have been awarded to 24 organizations that provide 29 programs across Montgomery County, including eight brand new programs, both small and large in scale. In addition, MCAEL is actively pursuing the expansion of services to communities where adult ESOL learning opportunities are scarce and there are increased barriers to participation.

MCAEL thanks the panel of community members who donated extensive time and energy to review and evaluate the grant applications. MCAEL also thanks the Montgomery County Government for increasing funding for program grants this year, as well as for their ongoing support of English language learning opportunities in Montgomery County.

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) programs, more than 1,300 instructors and staff, and approximately 16,000 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).