For immediate release:

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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), with the generous support of Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich and the Montgomery County Council, has awarded grants totaling $1,465,853 to 24 organizations that provide 29 adult English language learning programs across the County.

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, included in the 29 programs receiving grants are 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 increased funding for program grants this year, as well as for their ongoing support of English language learning opportunities in Montgomery County.

Recipients of this year’s grants include:

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

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.