

WE ALL BENEFIT FROM AN ENGLISH LITERATE COMMUNITY

A Stronger Economy

For every \$1 invested in adult education, there is a **\$3.15 economic benefit** to the community

A Pathway Out of Poverty

43% of low literacy adults live in poverty

30% of adult ESOL students live in the five neighborhoods identified by the county as being at **greatest economic risk**.

An English-proficient worker in Maryland can earn **between \$4,000 and \$15,000 more** annually than a non-English

A Prepared Workforce

Basic skills would enable businesses to generate **over \$60 billion in productivity**.

MCAEL: A COMMUNITY-WIDE RESPONSE

The challenge of adult English literacy is significant and requires a solution that goes beyond the doors of a single organization to focus at the community level. For that reason, MCAEL was established in 2006 to:

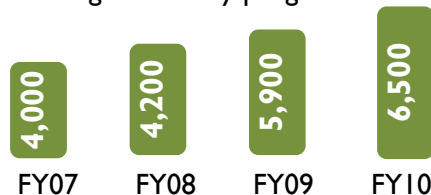
- Increase the quality and availability English literacy services
- Expand and coordinate resources and knowledge
- Promote understanding and awareness among the broader community

Extending our Reach

Number of programs providing adult English literacy services in the MCAEL network:	2005
	36
	2010
	70+

Building Capacity

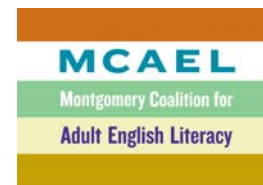
Annual enrollments in MCAEL- funded adult English literacy programs:



MCAEL @ the Nonprofit Village
12320 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD 20852
301-881-1338 / connect@mcael.org

www.mcael.org

THE STATE OF ADULT ENGLISH LITERACY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY 2010



WHAT

ENGLISH LITERACY is the ability to read, write, and communicate at a level sufficient to reach one's full potential as a parent, worker, and community member.

WHO

WORKERS

Over 80,000

adult residents lack basic literacy, i.e. the skills to complete a job application.

PARENTS

12,000 or more

children in our public schools have parents with English literacy needs.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

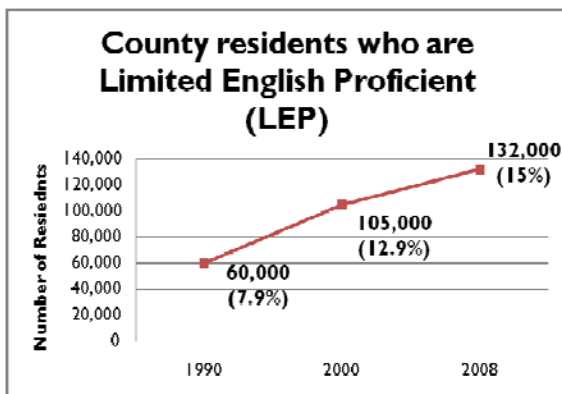
132,000

residents are limited in their ability to communicate in English.

A SIGNIFICANT AND GROWING NEED

Montgomery County has changed dramatically over the last 20 years to become a thriving metropolis that benefits from a rich diversity of cultural and linguistic communities. Alongside this transformation are new challenges for our County.

Today, **one in seven county residents** out of the County's total population of close to one million are limited in their ability to communicate in English –more than double the number just two decades ago.



Source: American Community Survey (ACS)

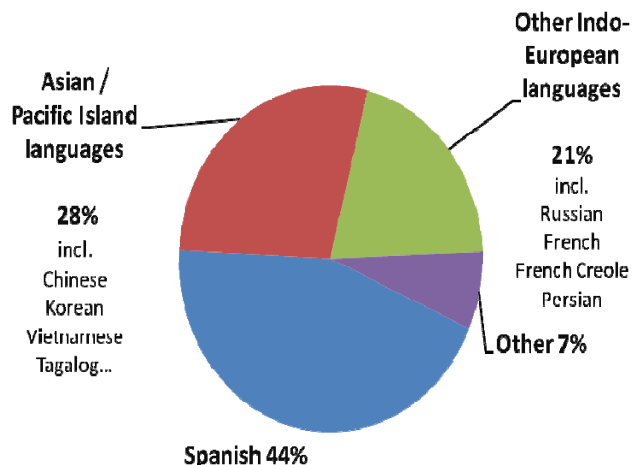
Diverse LEP Population

Diverse Educational Backgrounds

45% of foreign-born residents have a bachelor's degree or higher

18% of foreign-born residents have not finished high school

Diversity of Languages Spoken



Diversity of Goals

English language learners have varying goals that relate to their need to realize their roles as parents, workers and members of the community. Some short-term goals may include:

- ✓ Passing the citizenship test
- ✓ Calling 911
- ✓ Speaking with a child's teacher
- ✓ Communicating with a neighbor
- ✓ Reading a prescription
- ✓ Applying for a job
- ✓ Getting a library card
- ✓ Speaking with a medical provider

THE CHALLENGES

English language learners:

- ✓ **Are highly motivated, but face limited opportunities.**

Today, more than **2,000 adults** are on growing **waitlists** to take English classes.

- ✓ **Face a long timeline to learn and advance toward their goals.**

120 hours

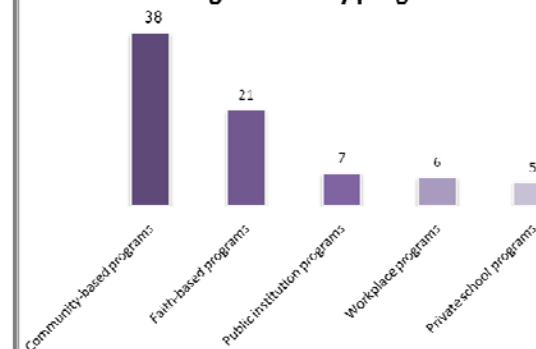
Average hours of instruction needed to advance a single English literacy level (six levels to English proficiency)

6-8 years

Average number of years of instruction to achieve English proficiency

- ✓ **Need trusted, convenient and accessible programs.**

Who offers English literacy programs?



Community-based programs target a range of groups, such as parents; seniors; specific ethnic communities; and union members.