MCAEL FY16 Adult English Literacy Program Grants & Literacy Access Grants

PURPOSE
In partnership with Montgomery County Government, MCAEL offers grant resources to support adult English literacy programs. The objective of MCAEL’s grants program is to increase the availability of adult English literacy services offered to diverse populations and to improve the quality of those services in Montgomery County. MCAEL thanks Montgomery County Government for supporting literacy.

MCAEL provides funding through two grant programs: Adult English Literacy Programs Grant (AELP) and Literacy Access Grants (LA). AELP grants generally fund established organizations that have managed enrollment with at least 120 hours of instruction a year per learner. LA grants support drop-in classes, conversation clubs and ESOL programs with under 120 hours per year of instruction and/or organizations in the beginning stages of developing ESOL programs.

The goals of both grant structures are to (1) access and leverage ongoing/new partnerships and resources; (2) create access to English classes for underserved populations; and (3) develop access points to link individuals to the larger ESOL system that exists in Montgomery County.

Eligible organizations must be or partner with a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) or have a similar designation from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service organization.

Ana A. Brito Foundation, Inc.
Adult English Literacy Program – Literacy Access Grant
To support an English Literacy program at Epworth United Methodist Church of Gaithersburg. Childcare is provided to enable more individuals to attend class.
Award: $15,000

Briggs Center for Faith and Action
English as a Second Language – Literacy Access Grant
To support a program offering English classes at no cost to a diverse population of learners in the greater Bethesda area.
Award: $6,000

CASA de Maryland, Inc.
Life Skills ESOL Program – Program Grant
To support ESOL programming focused on improving participants’ listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, so adult learners may become more financially independent, increase their employability, better integrate into American society, and achieve their personal goals.
Award: $156,873

CASA de Maryland, Inc.
Workforce ESOL Program – Literacy Access Grant
To support the operation of drop-in English classes at the Welcome Center in Shady Grove, so adult learners can learn English and improve their employment prospects and increase their earnings.
Award: $10,000
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CASA de Maryland, Inc.
Workforce ESOL Program – Literacy Access Grant
To support the operation of drop-in English classes at the Welcome Center in Silver Spring, so adult learners can learn English and improve their employment prospects and increase their earnings.
Award: $10,000

CASA de Maryland, Inc.
Workforce ESOL Program – Literacy Access Grant
To support the operation of drop-in English classes at the Welcome Center in Wheaton, so adult learners can learn English and improve their employment prospects and increase their earnings.
Award: $10,000

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, Inc. (Spanish Catholic Center)
English for Speakers of Other Languages – Program Grant
To support an ESOL program with a family literacy component, located in Gaithersburg, focused on increasing the language and literacy skills for low-income, limited English proficient members of the Hispanic community and other immigrant communities in Montgomery County.
Award: $85,000

Chinese Culture & Community Service Center
Adult English Literacy Program – Literacy Access Grant
To support an ESOL program for Chinese Americans and other county residents focused on assisting seniors in overcoming the English language barrier in order to become active participants and contributors to the community.
Award: $11,000

TIMELINE: FY16 GRANT PROCESS
February 3rd MCAEL issued RFP
February 4th MCAEL RFP workshop
March Optional MCAEL staff reviewed applicant draft proposals
April 15th Final submission deadline
May 13th Applicant Interviews
May 15th / 29th Panel convened, reviewed grants and made recommendations
June 5th MCAEL Board final approval
June 15th Final grant awards announced
June 2015 Staff available for debriefings

OUTREACH
MCAEL conducted targeted outreach to ensure a wide circulation of the RFP to all Montgomery County adult literacy and ESOL providers through MCAEL’s provider list and local non-profit and government networks.

TOTAL REQUESTS RECEIVED
18 organizations, 23 programs and over $1,000,000 in requests

TOTAL AWARDS
$950,000 in grants awarded to support 17 organizations and 22 programs
Community Ministries of Rockville
Language Outreach Program – Program Grant
To support an ESOL and literacy program for limited English speaking, low-income, adult residents of Rockville and Montgomery County focused on helping immigrants better assimilate into American culture and improve the quality of their lives.
Award: $110,000

Family Services Inc. – Family Discovery Center
English for Speakers of Other Languages – Program Grant
To support ESOL programming offering classes for parents with young children who live in Montgomery County. The mission of the Family Discovery Center’s ESOL programming is to ensure that students can use basic English in everyday situations, such as: grocery shopping, using public transportation, on the job, in conversation with school personnel, and during health appointments; while ensuring students have the core knowledge and skills necessary to continue their educational pursuits.
Award: $35,000

George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy
Watkins Mill Saturday School Adult Literacy Classes – Program Grant
To support an ESOL program offering a network of family-friendly adult English literacy classes at George B. Thomas Learning Academy Saturday School Program on the weekends in order to increase parents ability to support their children’s academic success.
Award: $10,492
Hispanic Business Foundation of Maryland
Trade Talk English Literacy for Landscape Workers – **Literacy Access Grant**
To support an English language course for landscape workers to help them communicate better with their colleagues, supervisors, and customers, and to have a better understanding of worksite and occupational safety, their responsibilities to their employer, and fair labor standards.
*Award: $5,000*

Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington
Gateways ESOL Classes – **Literacy Access Grant**
To support ESOL classes to a primarily Russian-speaking senior population in Montgomery County in order to assist them with their transition to life in America by helping them become more active, engaged and responsible citizens.
*Award: $6,000*

Literacy Council of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc.
ESL Class Program – **Program Grant**
To support an ESL program, offering classes throughout the county with an expansion in the Gaithersburg area, for Montgomery County adult residents and workers who wish to develop functional English literacy skills, so they can get/retain jobs, secure better jobs, assist their children’s education, become educated consumers, become more active members of the community, and improve the quality of their lives.
*Award: $155,586*

Literacy Council of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc.
English for Daily Living with Family Literacy Access – **Literacy Access Grant**
To support family English literacy classes for parents in partnership with elementary schools and in concert with children’s literacy programming, in order for parents to gain language skills that support family and community life and their children in school.
*Award: $15,000*
Literacy Council of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc.

**English for Health – Literacy Access Grant**

To support family English literacy classes with a focus on health. The program is designed for adult English language learners who lack language skills needed to navigate the complexities of health care delivery and to manage the health care needs of themselves and family members. Classes will provide learners with opportunities for hands-on experiential education during which they practice English language skills in authentic, mock clinics with professionals in the healthcare community.

**Award:** $15,000

Montgomery County Public Schools Education Foundation, Inc.

**Linkages to Learning Adult English Literacy Program – Program Grant**

To support an ESOL program offering a network of family-friendly adult English literacy classes in high needs MCPS schools during the week in order to increase parents'/school engagement and a parent’s ability to support their children’s academic success.

**Award:** $222,173

Muslim Community Center

**English Language Program – Literacy Access Grant**

To support ESOL classes that will enable adult learners who are members of the Muslim faith community and those of other faiths to learn English more proficiently in order to gain knowledge and self-confidence, so they can be more independent in their daily lives.

**Award:** $3,550

Rockville Seniors, Inc.

**Rockville Senior Center English Program – Program Grant**

To support an English program developed to help immigrants over age 60 learn practical speaking, listening, reading, and writing English skills that will enable learners to function more independently in the community.

**Award:** $41,564
Seneca Creek Community Church
Seneca Creek Community Church ESOL Program – Literacy Access Grant
To support English conversation classes to adults focused on improving English proficiency as part of the Seneca Creek Community Church community outreach efforts in the Gaithersburg area.
Award: $13,000

Workforce Solutions Group of Montgomery County, Inc.
Workplace English for Employment – Literacy Access Grant
To support an ESOL program that provides English language instruction focusing on employment vocabulary, job searches and resume-building to assist Montgomery County language learners in finding employment opportunities and applying for jobs.
Award: $5,712