



2021 Grant Awards

The goal of the MCAEL grants program is to increase the availability of adult ESOL and literacy services that support identified community needs and diverse populations while also supporting improvement of the quality of services. MCAEL is pleased to partner once again with the Montgomery County Government to offer grant support in FY21 for programs during the period July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. MCAEL's FY21 priorities are to support the expansion of services in areas where adult ESOL learning opportunities are scarce, including Upcounty and East County, and for populations that lack access, as well as weekend classes. These priorities are identified through an annual analysis of data collected from providers. MCAEL also supports provision of childcare and transportation to address these barriers to attending class.

Grant Partners

Ana A. Brito Foundation, Inc.
 Association of Vietnamese Americans
 Briggs Center for Faith and Action
 CASA
 Catholic Charities
 Chinese Cultural Community Service Center
 Community Reach of Montgomery County
 Covenant Life Church
 Ethiopian Community Center
 Family Services, Inc.
 George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy

Identity, Inc.
 IMPACT Silver Spring
 Islamic Center of Maryland*
 International Rescue Committee
 Literacy Council of Montgomery County
 Mill Creek Parish United Methodist Church*
 Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation*
 Rockville Seniors, Inc.
 Seneca Creek Community Church
 Vietnamese American Services
 Washington New Covenant Fellowship Church

FY 21

TOTAL REQUESTED FUNDING

23 organizations, 32 programs and a total of \$1,597,580 in requests

TOTAL AWARDS

- \$1,285,000 in grant funding
- Grants awarded to support 22 organizations for 30 programs
- 9 Program Grants and 21 Access Grants**

Legend



Transportation



Childcare

* **New FY21 Partner Organization or Program**

For a description of grant types please see:

<http://mcael.org/grants>

See our full directory at: <http://mcael.org/directory>

Program Grants

CASA

Life Skills ESOL Program

\$170,826

To support ESOL programming focused on improving low-income immigrants' ability to understand, speak, and write in English through morning, evening, and Saturday classes. These skills are critical to immigrants' ability to participate and integrate fully in civic life.

www.wearecasa.org



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Ana A. Brito Foundation, Inc.

English Literacy Program at Epworth United Methodist Church of Gaithersburg

\$36,440

For the AABFI Adult English Literacy Program, which provides and facilitates English learning opportunities to financially vulnerable persons of limited English proficiency in northern Montgomery County. The program currently has six levels of classes and provides support services, including childcare, to enable more individuals to attend classes.

www.aabfi.org



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Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington

English for Speakers of Other Languages

\$108,000

Catholic Charities' ESOL Program works to increase the English Literacy skills of low-income, limited English proficient members of Montgomery County's Hispanic and immigrant communities. This program operates out of the Spanish Catholic Center in Gaithersburg.

www.catholiccharitiesdc.org



Transportation



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Community Reach of Montgomery County Inc.

Language Outreach Program

\$128,838

To support the Language Outreach Program, a family-based ESOL and literacy program for non-English speaking adult Montgomery County Residents that offers free childcare, preschool enrichment, and tutoring for childcare while their parents are in class. The goal of the program is to help immigrants obtain the level of English needed to succeed in the community and improve their quality of life.

www.cmrocks.org



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Ethiopian Community Center African Immigrant Vocational ESOL Program

\$41,000

To offer three levels of vocational English literacy classes to Montgomery County's limited English proficient (LEP) African immigrant residents who live in Takoma Park's Maple Avenue corridor and Piney Branch Road. The goal of the program is to equip African immigrants in low wage and low skill jobs with employment-related English language skills that will allow them to successfully access educational and workforce development opportunities.

www.ethiopiancommunitydc.org



www.mcael.org

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Program Grants

Family Services, Inc.

Family Discovery Center ESOL

\$35,000

For ESOL classes at the Family Discovery Center in Rockville for parents with young children (birth-4 years old) who live in Montgomery County. Families attending FDC also receive other free, comprehensive services (not funded by MCAEL), such as: family literacy and child development programming; parenting, employment readiness, and health education classes as well as case management and transportation assistance.

www.fs-inc.org



Transportation



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Family Services Inc.

Linkages to Learning

Adult English Literacy Program

\$294,769

To enhance capacity for community engagement and leadership by providing quality services to families and building capacity through County support to meet the needs of County residents. The program provides quality Beginning ESL Literacy, Low Beginning, and High Beginning level classes to parents/community members with limited English proficiency to increase parent/school and civic engagement, leadership development, and parents' ability to support their children's academic success.

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org



Transportation



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Literacy Council of Montgomery County

ESL Class Program

\$196,407

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County (LCMC) equips adults with the vital academic and vocational skills they need to navigate, and thrive in their local communities. LCMC offers ESL programs throughout the county to adult learners where English proficiency is a tool for success in achieving employment, academic, and everyday life goals.

<https://www.lcmcmd.org>

Rockville Seniors Inc.

Rockville Senior Center English Program

\$49,358

The program provides opportunities for immigrants 60 years of age or older from diverse cultural, educational, language, and socio-economic backgrounds to learn functional speaking, listening, reading and writing skills that can build confidence, promote independence, and encourage engagement in the community. The program is held in a setting that encourages social interaction, promotes diversity, and offers programs that provide additional opportunities for learning and practicing English and conversation skills.

<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/397/Services>



Transportation



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Access Grants

Association of Vietnamese Americans

New Americans Advocacy Services

English Classes

\$8,800

To help Vietnamese Americans with little or limited English proficiency (LEP) learn basic English literacy skills, so that they can become more independent and also be able to take and also be able to take AVA's US Citizenship Test Prep class which would prepare them to pass the U.S. Citizenship tests with a 60% passing grade.

www.avaus.org

Briggs Center for Faith and Action

ESL Program

\$15,000

To improve the Limited English Proficient (LEP) learner's ability and confidence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. There is an emphasis on vocabulary, grammar, conversation, pronunciation and comprehension.

www.briggscenter.org



Transportation



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Chinese Cultural and Community Service Center

Adult English Literacy Program

\$11,000

To improve participants' English skills, to enable them to: increase their employability; become more self-reliant and confident; be better integrated into American society; and achieve their personal goals. The target population is mainly Chinese immigrants who need help with all aspects of their English.

www.ccacc-dc.org

CASA

Workforce ESOL

\$7,500 for Rockville

\$7,500 for Silver Spring

\$8,500 for Wheaton

To support drop-in English classes for low-income LEP immigrant workers who access employment and other related services at CASA's Welcome Centers in Silver Spring, Wheaton, and Rockville. The Workforce ESOL program aims to improve workers' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in English to expand their employment prospects and increase their earnings.

www.wearecasa.org

Covenant Life Church

ESOL Program

\$15,000

To support a family-friendly ESOL program for a diverse Gaithersburg community of adult students. The program aims to improve participants' English proficiency in listening, reading, writing and speaking through classes, conversation, and community integration activities.

www.covlife.org



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Community Reach of Montgomery County

Language Outreach Program

Conversation Sessions

\$ 14,884

The goal of these conversation groups is to help participants (Interfaith Works' Interfaith Clothing Center (ICC) Clients and LOP students who are primarily non-English speaking Montgomery County residents) with their day-to-day English language skills, such as improving listening comprehension and pronunciation skills, and to reduce learning loss between semesters for LOP students.

www.cmrocks.org



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Access Grants

Identity, Inc.

English Literacy for Disconnected Young Adults
\$18,000

To provide basic level ESOL classes for the Disconnected Youth Program. The program provides an English learning opportunity to disconnected youth (aged 16-25) with extremely low levels of English proficiency, to support their educational, work and life goals, and to encourage continued English language learning.

www.identity-youth.org

IMPACT Silver Spring

English Language Classes
\$11,000

To support English Language Acquisition classes, which have seen a rise in demand in the local Long Branch immigrant communities. The goal is to remove the barriers to obtaining English language skills and to provide free, accessible English language acquisition to this underserved community, supporting residents' capacities to grow their social and economic assets.



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www.impactsilverspring.org

Islamic Center of Maryland*

Adult English Literacy Class
\$7,500

To support speakers of other languages become more proficient in comprehending and communicating effectively in the English language. Funding will support the visitors of the Islamic Center of Maryland (ICM) as well as residents of the neighboring cities or Gaithersburg, Rockville, Germantown and Clarksburg.



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www.icomd.org

Family Services, Inc

Thriving Germantown Hub
\$12,993

To continue to offer an adult ESOL conversation class program as part of the Thriving Germantown (TG) Community Hub. This program will continue to focus on Captain James E. Daly Elementary School catchment area – a highly diverse, low income, and high needs area. Improved English Literacy will help parents and adult family members to actively partner in their children's education, improve their family's ability to utilize health and social services resources, and engage in workforce opportunities.



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www.fs-inc.org

George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy

Adult Literacy Class at Col. Zadok Magruder HS
Saturday School Center
\$7,843

To support student participation in Saturday School and benefit parents whose full participation in their community is hampered by a lack of proficiency in English. Wrap around services are provided to create an environment in which parents are learning along with their children at Saturday School and are developing personal relationships that empower them and enhance their children's success, as well as their own.



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www.saturdayschool.org



www.mcael.org

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Access Grants

International Rescue Committee

Beginner ESL for Parents of Young Children
\$8,000

To support parents of young children, most frequently women, who are unable to access ESL classes and face barriers to employment due to childcare responsibilities. The ESL classes will offer life skills ESL and vocational ESL, with the intention of building English skills for community and workplace integration.



Transportation



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www.Rescue.org/Silverspring

Literacy Council of Montgomery County

LC Chats*
\$8,962

This program helps learners throughout the county to improve their English on a drop-in basis. LCMC's LC Chats Program emphasizes conversational skills with a life-skills component with a specific theme each week. This learning model offers flexibility, and it does not involve a registration process.



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<https://www.lcmcmd.org>

Mill Creek Parish United Methodist Church*

ESOL Program
\$3,680

To provide adult learners opportunities to learn, study and practice English through various levels of adult ESOL classes and community events. The program started in direct response to a stated need for more English classes by parents of students in elementary and middle schools in the Derwood community surrounding our church.

www.millcreekparish.org



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Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation*

Maryvale ES Drop-in ESOL Pilot
\$5,000

The goal of the Maryvale Elementary School Drop-in ESOL Pilot Program is to provide drop-in, conversational English classes to the Maryvale Elementary School community and eventually refer learners to traditional classroom models when they are ready.

www.rockvillemd.gov



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Access Grants

Seneca Creek Community Church

ESOL Program

\$15,000

To increase the number of seats and enrich the existing ESOL classes to continue to transform the lives of families in the surrounding area providing opportunities for individuals to grow and prosper socially and financially through improved English language communication skills.

www.senecacreek.org



Transportation



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Vietnamese American Services

English Classes for Daily Conversation

\$14,100

Vietnamese American Services offers drop-in English classes for the Vietnamese American community from low-socioeconomic background in Montgomery County. The program provides opportunities for this underserved population to learn directly from native speakers, mitigating the language barrier and helping them engage in their community. Classes serve learners from beginner level with a focus on daily life conversation.

www.vasusa.org

Vietnamese American Services

English Classes for Specific Needs

\$14,100

This program prepares learners for tests and exams unique to their needs, including the U.S. Citizenship Test and Certification for workforce development for immigrants.

www.vasusa.org

Washington New Covenant Fellowship Church

English Classes

\$10,000

To provide English learning opportunities to the immigrant population in Germantown and strengthen English proficiency so that students can take on more active roles in the local community.

www.ncfcmd.org



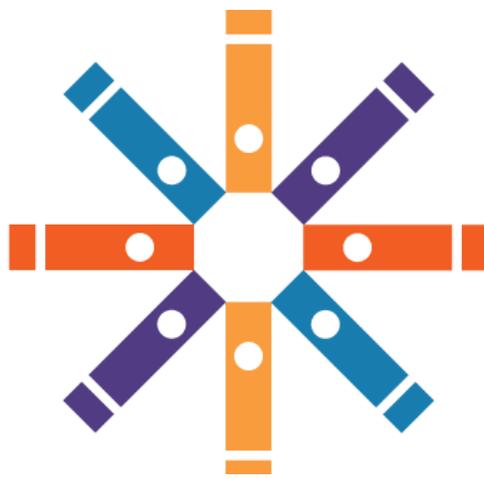
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Our Process

Funding decisions are made by a volunteer Grant Review Panel composed of community members. The panel members are selected to represent a diversity of experience and expertise in one or more of the following: the local community and community needs, nonprofit management, adult literacy and grant making.

Timeline

January/February • MCAEL grant guidelines released; Grant Information session held

Mid-March • Appointments available with MCAEL staff to answer questions about the RFP

Early-April • Application deadline

May/June • Grant Panel members review applications & interview applicants • Panel meets to develop funding recommendations

• MCAEL Board reviews/approves funding recommendations

June • Applicants are notified in writing of the MCAEL board's final funding decision.

FY21 Grant Review Panel

MCAEL thanks the panel of community members who donated extensive time, energy, and analysis to reviewing the grant applications.

Alex Galen
Amy Maron
Anita Mwalui
Barbara Crews
Chelsea Selby
Grace Karambiri
Hawa Farah

Marguerite Raaen
Mary Gallagher
Matthew Brown
Michael Breuer
*Stacy Parkinson
Stephanie Freeman
Samantha Kupferman

MCAEL Board Member*



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