

FY23 MCAEL

Grant Awards

2023 GRANT AWARDS



The goal of the MCAEL grants program is to increase the availability of adult ESOL 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 FY23 for programs during the period July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. MCAEL's FY23 priorities are to support the expansion of services in areas where adult ESOL learning opportunities are scarce, including Upcounty and East County for populations that lack access, and 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. This year MCAEL is introduced a subcategory of Access Grants - Access Small Grants - to encourage more community- and faith-based organizations to offer adult English classes.

\$1,471,743

TOTAL FUNDING
REQUESTED

23 organizations submitted
31 grant applications for
\$1,471,743.

23

OF ORGANIZATIONS
FUNDED

For 31 programs in total

\$1,345,000

TOTAL FUNDING
AWARDED

A total of \$1,345,000 is allocated
for capacity-building grants

Grant Partners

Ana A. Brito Foundation, Inc.
Association of Vietnamese Americans
Briggs Center for Faith and Action
CASA Inc.
Catholic Charities
Chinese Culture and Community Service Center
Chinese American Parent Association of Montgomery County *[‡]
Community Reach of Montgomery County
Covenant Life Church
Ethiopian Community Center
Family Services, Inc.
Francophone Africans Alliance, Inc. [‡]

George B. Thomas Learning Academy
Hughes United Methodist Church *
Identity, Inc.
IMPACT Silver Spring
Kings & Priests Court Int'l Ministries Inc.
Literacy Council of Montgomery County
Mill Creek Parish United Methodist Church [‡]
Rockville Seniors, Inc.
Seneca Creek Community Church
Vietnamese American Services
Washington New Covenant Fellowship Church

See the County's full directory of adult English classes: <http://mcael.org/directory>
For a description of grant types please see: <http://mcael.org/grants>

*First time MCAEL Grant Recipient | [‡] Access Small Grants

ANA A. BRITO FOUNDATION, INC.

ENGLISH LITERACY PROGRAM AT EPWORTH
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
\$36,440

The goal of the AABFI English Literacy Program at Epworth United Methodist Church of Gaithersburg is to provide and facilitate English learning opportunities for immigrant and/or financially vulnerable persons of limited English proficiency in northern Montgomery County with six levels of ESOL classes and support services.



CASA, INC.

CASA LIFE SKILLS ESOL PROGRAM
\$191,476

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.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON, INC

ESOL PROGRAM
\$108,000

Catholic Charities' ESOL program provides in-person and virtual English-language education to limited English proficient adults in Upcounty, Mid-County, and Silver Spring and to individuals who participate virtually. As a result of their participation in the ESOL program, learners more effectively engage their English skills in practical activities such as accessing health care, finding and maintaining employment, and other essential tasks.



COMMUNITY REACH OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY INC.

LANGUAGE OUTREACH PROGRAM
\$128,838

Community Reach of Montgomery County Language Outreach Program (LOP) is a unique, family based ESOL program for non-English speaking adult residents of Montgomery County. LOP offers tutoring and English language enrichment for the children of LOP's adult students. The goal of LOP is to help immigrants obtain the level of English needed to succeed in the Montgomery County community, thus improving their quality of life.



FY23 PROGRAM GRANTS

See the County's full directory of adult English classes at: <http://mcael.org/directory>
For a description of grant types please see: <http://mcael.org/grants>



Transportation



Childcare

ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

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.

FAMILY SERVICES, INC./ SHEPPARD PRATT

ENGLISH LITERACY CLASSES
LINKAGES TO LEARNING
\$278,849

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.



FAMILY SERVICES, INC./ SHEPPARD PRATT

FAMILY DISCOVERY CENTER
\$38,000

The Family Discovery Center is a unique, comprehensive, multi-generational family education program that offers wrap-around services to every participant, which include: childcare, service coordination, transportation assistance, parenting classes, mental health services, health education and employment readiness classes, and developmental assessments for children. FDC serves parents and children birth through three and pregnant women. The Centers primary objectives are to encourage parents to complete their education; break the cycle of poverty and violence; teach participants effective parenting strategies; promote family literacy and help parents acquire job skills...



LITERACY COUNCIL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

ESL CLASSROOM PROGRAM
\$210,000

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County (LCMC) sustains and grows the social and economic equity of adults in our region through education and workforce training. Our mission is to advance social and economic equity for under-served adults through academic instruction and workforce development. At LCMC, we teach adults to read, write, and speak English in a vibrant multicultural community where English proficiency is a tool for success. The funding from MCAEL will allow LCMC offer ESL Classes to English Language Learners from various backgrounds including various goals and needs in wide-range of areas in Montgomery County.



FY23 PROGRAM GRANTS

See the County's full directory of adult English classes at: <http://mcael.org/directory>
For a description of grant types please see: <http://mcael.org/grants>



Transportation



Childcare

ROCKVILLE SENIORS, INC.

ROCKVILLE SENIOR CENTER ENGLISH PROGRAM

\$57,000

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.



FY23 PROGRAM GRANTS

See the County's full directory of adult English classes at: <http://mcael.org/directory>
For a description of grant types please see: <http://mcael.org/grants>



Transportation



Childcare

BRIGGS CENTER FOR FAITH & ACTION

ESOL PROGRAM
\$20,000

The goal of the program is to improve the Limited English Proficient (LEP) learner's ability and confidence listening, speaking, reading and writing in English, with an emphasis on vocabulary, grammar, conversation, pronunciation and comprehension. The target population are LEP adults living and/or working in or near Montgomery County, MD.



CHINESE AMERICAN PARENT ASSOCIATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

ITEACH
\$5,000

CAPA-MC iTeach Program provides critical services to Asian American Communities by providing ESOL classes to low-income seniors, new immigrants, and needed parents. So, they can successfully integrate into American life and lead a meaningful life. Our iTeach Program has attracted more than 150 students. The program is carried out by bilingual student and adult volunteers, trained by professional ESOL instructors. Our Target population is for all Immigrants and is open to all county residents as we offer both in person and zoom classes to create more flexibility for students.



CASA, INC.

SILVER SPRING WORKFORCE ESOL | **\$7,500**
WHEATON WORKFORCE ESOL | **\$8,500**

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 and Wheaton. 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



CHINESE CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER, INC.

ADULT ENGLISH LITERACY PROGRAM
\$15,900

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.



FY23 ACCESS GRANTS

See the County's full directory of adult English classes at: <http://mcael.org/directory>
For a description of grant types please see: <http://mcael.org/grants>



Transportation



Childcare

COMMUNITY REACH OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

LANGUAGE OUTREACH PROGRAM

\$16,907

The goals of these Conversation Sessions are: to help our learners (LOP students and Interfaith Clothing Center clients who are primarily low-income, non-English-speaking immigrant residents of Montgomery County) with English language skills; to improve conversational listening and pronunciation; and to reinforce classroom learning during the semester and/or reduce learning loss between semesters for current LOP students.



COVENANT LIFE CHURCH INC

ESOL PROGRAM

\$18,065

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.



FAMILY SERVICES, INC./SHEPPARD PRATT

LINKAGES TO LEARNING CONVERSATION CLUB

\$9,500

Our goal is to give confidence to our learners as they speak with native-speakers in the community; this confidence will inspire learners to apply for better paying jobs, advocate for their children at school, or complete their citizenship.



FAMILY SERVICES, INC./SHEPPARD PRATT

THRIVING GERMANTOWN

\$13,367

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.



FY23 ACCESS GRANTS

See the County's full directory of adult English classes at: <http://mcael.org/directory>
For a description of grant types please see: <http://mcael.org/grants>



Transportation



Childcare

FRANCOPHONE AFRICANS ALLIANCE, INC.

ESOL BY F.A.A

\$5,000

Our program started with the goal of eliminating the language barrier faced by African immigrants, especially those from French speaking countries.

We aim to provide adult learners with opportunities to improve their English proficiency through various levels of ESOL classes.

In doing so, they become equipped with the necessary language skills that allow them to become fully integrated in the greater community.



HUGHES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HUGHES UNITED ESOL PROGRAM

\$5,990

To support our Community and Montgomery County, Hughes UMC is looking forward to helping immigrants learn English as a second language. We want to provide child care for single mothers who need that little extra help. Classes will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 p.m; to 9:00 p.m.

IDENTITY, INC

ENGLISH LITERACY FOR DISCONNECTED

YOUTH

\$20,000

The goal of Identity's English Literacy for Disconnected Youth Program is to provide basic level ESOL learning opportunities to disconnected youth, aged 16-25, with extremely low levels of English proficiency, in order to support their educational, work and life goals and to encourage continued English Language learning.



IMPACT SILVER SPRING

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

\$14,000

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.



FY23 ACCESS GRANTS

See the County's full directory of adult English classes at: <http://mcael.org/directory>
For a description of grant types please see: <http://mcael.org/grants>



Transportation



Childcare

KINGS & PRIESTS COURT INT'L MINISTRIES INC.

KPCIM ESOL CLASSES
\$6,000

Program's primary goal is to increase communication skills and combat language barriers in our African and Hispanic community in Silver Spring.



LITERACY COUNCIL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

LC CHATS
\$9,504

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.



MILL CREEK PARISH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ESOL PROGRAM
\$4,591

To provide adult learners with opportunities to learn, study and practice English through various levels of adult ESOL classes and community events. Program offered as a direct response to a stated need for more English classes for parents of students in elementary and middle schools in the Derwood community surrounding our church. In addition to English classes for adults, we also work to connect our learners with various community resources including food distribution, education and tutoring support, childcare, technology resources, and more!



MARYLAND VIETNAMESE MUTUAL ASSOCIATION, INC

NEW AMERICANS' ADVOCACY SERVICE
\$8,330

Our goal is 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 our U.S. Citizenship Test Prep class which would prepare them to pass the U.S. Citizenship tests with a 60% passing grade.



FY23 ACCESS GRANTS

See the County's full directory of adult English classes at: <http://mcael.org/directory>
For a description of grant types please see: <http://mcael.org/grants>



Transportation



Childcare

SENECA CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

SENECA CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH ESOL PROGRAM
\$20,000

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.



THE GEORGE B. THOMAS LEARNING ACADEMY, INCORPORATED

ADULT LITERACY
\$7,843

The George B. Thomas Learning Academy (GBTLA) offers low cost instruction on Saturdays for 2.5 hours to school-age children in Montgomery County in reading/language arts and mathematics during the academic year. Saturday School encourages parents to be more involved and effectively support and advocate for their children. With 46% of our MCPS students bi-lingual, we find that language is a barrier that Saturday classes for parents can eradicate, especially in pockets of Montgomery County where many are in need of language support. GBTLA would like to offer 2 face-to-face Adult Literacy classes and one virtual (weeknight) class to parent of MCPS students to support their effort in advocating for their children.



VIETNAMESE AMERICAN SERVICES

CITIZENSHIP CLASS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
\$14,340

Vietnamese American Services offer specialty English classes for Vietnamese American community from low-socioeconomic background in the Silver Spring area. The program prepares learners for tests and exams unique to their needs, including the U.S. Citizenship Test and English for employment development for immigrants.

VIETNAMESE AMERICAN SERVICES

CONVERSATION ENGLISH CLASS FOR ADULT LEARNERS
\$14,340

Vietnamese American Services (VAS) offers drop-in English classes for the Vietnamese American community from low-socioeconomic background in the Silver Spring area. The program provides opportunities for the underserved population to learn conversational English, mitigating the language barrier and helping them engage in their community. Classes serve learners from beginner level with a focus on daily life conversation.



FY23 ACCESS GRANTS

See the County's full directory of adult English classes at: <http://mcael.org/directory>
For a description of grant types please see: <http://mcael.org/grants>



Transportation



Childcare

WASHINGTON NEW COVENANT FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

ESL PROGRAM

\$10,720

The NCFC ESL program has been providing English learning opportunities to the immigrant population in Germantown since 2016. We strive to strengthen our student's English proficiency in order to help them integrate and thrive in their local communities. Receiving MCAEL funding greatly increases our ability to provide a high quality ESL program.



FY23 ACCESS GRANTS

See the County's full directory of adult English classes at: <http://mcael.org/directory>
For a description of grant types please see: <http://mcael.org/grants>



Transportation



Childcare



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 grant application forms

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.

FY23 Grant Review Panel

MCAEL thanks the panel of community members who donated extensive time and energy to review and analyze the grant applications.

Abigail (Abby) Wacker
Adam M. Roberts
Alex Galen
Barbara Crews
Francisco Cartagena
Karin Leff

Marguerite Raaen
Mary Gallagher
Mary-Ellen Friedland
Matthew (Matt) A. Greene
Stacy Parkinson*
Wendy Kahn

MCAEL Board Member*

See our full directory of County Adult ESOL programs at: <http://mcael.org/directory>

For a description of grant types please see: <http://mcael.org/grants>

