

ABOUT MCAEL

MCAEL is a community coalition of public, nonprofit, and business partners that supports more than 75 adult ESOL and literacy service programs, 1,500 instructors and staff, and over 15,000 adult learners. Together, the coalition members strengthen the community by assisting adults to gain the English literacy skills needed to reach their potential as parents, workers and community members. Montgomery County government and local nonprofits form unique partnerships with MCAEL. The work of the coalition aligns with county initiatives to support workforce development efforts and families.

MCAEL expands opportunities for high-quality English language and literacy instruction in the community through two programs: Capacity Building and Public Engagement. MCAEL works to advance adult literacy and language learning, and to bring the vision and principles of these disciplines to our work. Research has demonstrated that adult education is most

effective when it builds from the experience of the learners and connects directly to their needs and interests. Likewise, in our capacity building work, MCAEL draws upon the knowledge that already exists in the community, while also introducing adult English literacy practitioners and volunteers to research and evidence-based practices. MCAEL is a coalition working collaboratively to connect the issue of literacy to everyone.

MCAEL sees a diverse professional community as a significant asset to the county, and believes our community can achieve more for adult learners by activating the talent, knowledge and passion of instructors and program managers. The support from the county government, businesses and community members is key to MCAEL's success. MCAEL encourages collaboration and community building. MCAEL exists to connect professionals to knowledge and information, and to each other, as resources for learning and

support. By investing in the skills, talent and capacity of adult English literacy instructors and providers, MCAEL's work leads to sustainable, long-lasting results.

CAPACITY BUILDING

MCAEL focuses on the following activities to strengthen the capacity of adult English literacy service providers to deliver high quality, effective programs that meet the needs of learners.

FOR PROGRAM STAFF

- Community Grants
- Workshops
- Technical Assistance
- Networking Meetings
- Resource Library
- Provider E-News List
- Online Tools

FOR INSTRUCTORS

- Trainings
- Resource Library
- Professional Development Scholarships
- Networking Meetings
- Instructor E-News List
- Job/Volunteer Postings
- Online Tools

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

MCAEL also serves as a community resource and knowledge center for information on adult English literacy in Montgomery County. MCAEL works in the following ways to engage the broader community in supporting and addressing English literacy:

KNOWLEDGE CENTER

- Data Collection and Analysis
- Reports
- Provider Directory
- Learner Stories

ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

- Promoting Community Literacy
- Coalition Building
- Connecting Business, Government, Nonprofits and Individuals
- Local, State and National Policy Advocacy



SUPPORT ADULT ENGLISH LITERACY

1. Donate and provide financial support to MCAEL for instructional initiatives.
2. Work with MCAEL on advocacy efforts to benefit the coalition and the learners.
3. Distribute the MCAEL Provider Directory and other materials to help spread the word to students, businesses, and the community.
4. Volunteer to contribute your time to MCAEL or one of the coalition's partners.