M E M O R A N D U M

January 30, 2020

TO: Education and Culture Committee

FROM: Carolyn Chen, Legislative Analyst *CJC*

SUBJECT: **Update: Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL)**

PURPOSE: FY20 Update from MCAEL

Expected for this session:

Kathy Stevens, Executive Director, MCAEL

Organizational Update

The mission of the Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL) is to strengthen the countywide adult English literacy network to support a thriving community and effective workforce. Through coalition building, MCAEL envisions a "culturally diverse community in Montgomery County where dreams are achieved through the power of literacy."

MCAEL operates as a $1.86M organization with 5.5 FTEs that grants $1.26M of its County funding to 20 nonprofit partners who run 27 adult literacy programs across the County to reach ~8,000 learners in FY20. MCAEL's broader coalition reaches ~15,000 learners annually on par with its strategic goal is to reach 21,000 learners by 2021.

MCAEL recently added two board members, including Rodney Redmond, College-wide Instructional Dean, English & Reading at Montgomery College and Sean Klein, General Counsel of Rosetta Stone.

MCAEL's Approach

For FY21, MCAEL has requested a budget increase of $100,000 - $150,000 to develop new coalition partners, increase Literacy Access grantmaking, develop greater ability to use and manage technology for learners and to support coordination with Montgomery County Public Libraries, Montgomery County Public Schools and workforce development initiatives in the County.

MCAEL's FY19 Update to the Education and Culture Committee can be accessed at https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2019/20190211/20190211_EC1.pdf.

Highlights of FY20 Accomplishments & Priorities

- **Industry Toolkit.** Published first-of-its-kind "Program Administrator Toolkit: A Guide to Implementing and Managing Community-Based Adult ESOL Classes and Programs" on September 20th by lead author, Alex Galen, ESOL and Literacy Program Coordinator at Montgomery College to increase capacity of providers with best practice guidelines.

- **Provider Landscape Mapping.** Conducted a survey of providers and instructors to identify baseline data regarding the instructor pool and program need to further MCAEL's strategic goal of building a diverse pipeline of instructors and increasing the number of trained instructors.

- **Brand Awareness.** Branding campaign to launch February 15th of a new logo and tagline to capture the importance and impact of MCAEL's role in coalition-building.
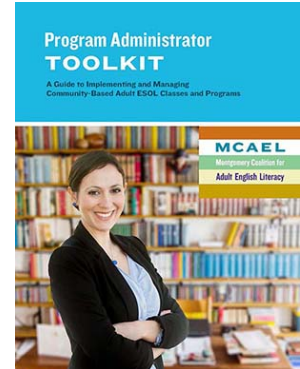
- **Tech Innovation.** Pilot the use and viability of Learning Upgrade, a smart phone application, from February to May with MCAEL's network of classes to increase access to literacy classes.

- **Professional Development.** Host the 2nd MCAEL Professional Development Conference "Connecting the Community through English Language Instruction" on March 7th at the Montgomery College Germantown Campus.

- **Racial Equity Training.** MCAEL staff and board member participation in Leadership Montgomery's two-day Racial Equity Training and inaugural Racial Equity Action Leadership's (REAL) eight-month REAL Inclusion program to develop a racial equity action plan around MCAEL's coalition and grantmaking efforts.

- **Grantmaking.** Launch of MCAEL's FY21 grant cycle in February which includes an increase from $15,000 to $20,000 maximum grant levels for literacy access programs and the creation of a new grant pool for $5,000 grants to support 3-5 new drop-in conversation classes in East County and/or Upcounty.

- **Workforce Development.** Expansion of adult literacy classes in the workplace including classes at GEICO, Asbury Methodist Village, two hotels and future partnerships with White Oak Medical Center, downtown Silver Spring and Wheaton restaurants and a construction company.

Committee Discussion Topics to Consider

1. Address unmet need in literacy access by increasing capacity of MCAEL to coordinate provider networks and utilize online and mobile marketing and technology to decrease waitlists and increase participation in target communities.

2. Partner with WorkSource Montgomery to develop workforce development programs that include adult literacy classes and with Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation to identify need in specific industries to expand on-site classes.

3. Explore research and evidence-based practices linking adult Spanish literacy programs to acquisition of English literacy and develop pathways to success.

4. Monitor future changes to the County's Community Grants process to find mechanisms to increase administrative capacity of MCAEL and review viability of multi-year contracting with grantees to measure long-term outcomes.

Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL)
FY18 - FY20 Funding & Grant Summary

	FY18	FY19	FY20
Total MCAEL Program & Literacy Access Grants	$1,120,000	$1,190,000	$1,260,000
MCAEL Operating Budget	$ 537,058	$ 567,058	$ 597,058
Total MCAEL Montgomery County Funding	$1,657,058	$1,757,058	$1,857,058
% Change		6%	6%

MCAEL Program Grantee	Program	FY18	FY19	FY20
Ana A. Brito Foundation, Inc.	English Literacy Program at Epworth United Methodist Church of Gaithersburg	$ 33,290	$ 34,000	$ 36,440
Bender Jewish Community Center	Gateways	$ 21,316	$ -	$ -
CASA	Life Skills ESOL Program	$ 166,873	$ 166,873	$ 170,826
Catholic Charities	English for Speakers of Other Languages	$ 100,000	$ 103,223	$ 108,000
Ethiopian Community Center	African Immigrant Vocational ESOL Program	$ -	$ 22,650	$ 41,000
Community Reach (formerly Community Ministries of Rockville)	Language Outreach Program	$ 113,018	$ 114,270	$ 128,838
Family Services, Inc.	Family Discovery Center ESOL	$ 35,000	$ 35,000	$ 35,000
Literacy Council of Montgomerhy County	ESL Class Program	$ 190,900	$ 194,123	$ 196,407
MCPS Educational Foundation	Linkages to Learning Adult English Literacy Program	$ 251,045	$ 270,597	$ 294,769
Rockville Seniors Inc.	Rockville Senior Center English Program	$ 47,375	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
Total MCAEL Program Grants		$ 958,817	$ 990,736	$1,061,280
% Change			3%	7%

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| MCAEL Literacy Access Grantee	Program	FY18	FY19	FY20
Bender Jewish Community Center	Gateways Seniors	$ -	$ 8,250	$ 2,500
Bender Jewish Community Center	Gateways Workforce ESOL Program	$ -	$ 13,000	$ -
Briggs Center for Faith and Action		$ 15,000	$ 15,000	$ 15,000
CASA	Workforce ESOL Rockville	$ 7,310	$ 7,500	$ 7,500
CASA	Workforce ESOL Silver Spring	$ 7,310	$ 7,500	$ 7,500
CASA	Workforce ESOL Wheaton	$ 8,000	$ 8,500	$ 8,500
Chinese Culture & Community Services Center	Adult English Literacy	$ 11,000	$ 11,000	$ 11,000
Community Reach (formerly Community Ministries of Rockville)	LOP and LOP/Interfaith Clothing Center Conversation Groups	$ 13,829	$ 14,398	$ 14,884
Community Services Foundation	ESOL Classes	$ 2,500	$ -	$ -
Covenant Life Church	ESOL Classes	$ 14,500	$ 14,500	$ 15,000
Family Services, Inc.	Thriving Germantown HUB	$ 8,600	$ 8,600	$ 12,993
George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy	Watkins Mill Saturday School Adult Literacy Classes	$ 10,609	$ 7,500	$ -
George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy	Adult Literacy Class at Montgomery Blair Saturday School Center	$ -	$ -	$ 7,843
Housing Opportunity Community Partners	ESL Drop-in	$ 4,700	$ -	$ -
Identity Inc.	English Literacy for Disconnected Young Adults	$ 15,000	$ 15,000	$ 15,000
Impact Silver Spring	English Language Classes	$ 9,825	$ 11,000	$ 11,000
International Rescue Committee	Beginner ESL with Childcare for Parents of Young Children	$ -	$ 5,500	$ 8,000
Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association	New Americans Advocacy Services	$ -	$ -	$ 8,800
Muslim Community Center	English Language Program	$ 5,000	$ -	$ -
Seneca Creek Community Church	ESOL Program	$ 13,000	$ 15,000	$ 15,000
Services Workers Training and Education Partnership	Pathways to Citizenship	$ -	$ 8,816	$ -
Vietnamese American Services	English Conversation Classes	$ 15,000	$ 14,100	$ 14,100
Vietnamese American Services	English Classes for Specific Needs	$ -	$ 14,100	$ 14,100
Washington New Covenant Fellowship Church	English Classes	$ -	$ -	$ 10,000
Total MCAEL Literacy Access Grants		**$ 161,183**	**$ 199,264**	**$ 198,720**
% Change			**24%**	**-0.3%**

This staff report contains: Circle #

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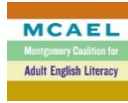
February 3, 2020

Update to County Council Education & Culture Committee
Kathy Stevens, Executive Director

MCAEL is pleased to update the Education Committee on its work. As requested, this update includes:

1. Priorities, Selected Data and Work Plan Overview for Fiscal Year 20
2. Financial Update – FY20 Montgomery County investment allocation
3. Future Work and Conclusions

1. Successes, Priorities and Work Plan – FY 20

MCAEL continues to expand a strong network of adult English literacy providers that is thriving and coordinated to deliver quality classes to those in need. MCAEL, as a separately incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit, now is in its 13th year. The work of MCAEL staff and providers continues to support our mission, "**to strengthen the countywide adult English literacy network to support a thriving community and effective workforce."**

FY20 Successes, Priorities and Work Plans

Mid-year grant partner reports were recently submitted. The data shows that grant partners have served over almost 4,000 learners (duplicated) thus far in FY20, on target to serve almost 8,000 learners through county funding. MCAEL is also tracking learners served by non-grant partners and will report on those numbers at the end of FY20.

Several providers report that they have more potential learners than they can serve[1]. The numbers on wait lists range from single digits to several hundred. MCAEL continues to track the learners that come to register and can't be served (either due to session timing, levels offered, lack of child care or other circumstances), and MCAEL also notes that waitlists do not capture any learners who do not know about classes and would be interested.

The grant partners have held 251 of the projected 569 classes (around 44%) and the plans for the spring sessions anticipate providing the full number of classes by year end.

In addition to continuing the ongoing capacity building and public education/engagement work to address the needs of the coalition and adult English literacy learners, MCAEL's priorities this year include:

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[1] Providers who are running managed enrollment programs may place students on a waitlist until the next session begins. And, at the same time, they refer learners to other MCAEL programs in the hopes that a learner does not have to wait for another session to begin.

1) **Assessing MCAEL's Brand**

MCAEL engaged Collaborative Communications to help the organization assess whether we had the best tools to communicate who we are and what we do to the widest number of people and organizations in Montgomery County. The firm did a thorough job of collecting external data and stakeholder input and the results showed:

- MCAEL was known and respected, but not many people could accurately state the full name of the organization – most often missing was the concept that we are a widely connected Coalition
- A new logo, tagline and core messaging for business, school and community partners was developed
- On February 15, we will be launching a new logo, look and tagline that will capture the importance and impact our coalition has and MCAEL's role as the hub of that coalition

2) **Increase access points and increase numbers of learners served**
MCAEL is focused on serving increased numbers of learners especially in areas of the county where the coalition does not have as many classes that are needed

- MCAEL published the one of a kind "Program Administrator Toolkit: A Guide to Implementing and Managing Community-Based Adult ESOL Classes and Programs." The result of a close collaboration with provider organizations in the County, this toolkit draws on the expertise of MCAEL staff, partners and practitioners in the field to provide a practical handbook for community-based adult ESOL programs at all levels of development. Authored by Alex Galen, Adult ESOL and Literacy Program Director at Montgomery College, the Toolkit is designed to be a comprehensive reference on all aspects of managing programs, including determining the location and timing of classes, recruiting and retaining both learners and instructors, selection of teaching materials, assessment for learner placement as well as learner gains, transition services, data management and volunteer management. Presented in a Q&A format, each of the 22 chapters includes guidance, suggested resources, and practical examples from provider organizations in the MCAEL network.
- MCAEL conducted a survey of providers and instructors in order to identify updated baseline data regarding the instructor pool and what the programs needed. One of MCAEL's strategic goals is to increase the number of trained, available instructors and to build a more diverse pipeline of instructors to meet the needs of adult learners and the providers. As a result of that survey MCAEL has done the following:
  - Doubled the number of 2-day high intensity trainings for instructors
  - Initiated new communications and job postings with the TED training institute at Montgomery College
  - Created a portion on its website to allow instructors to seek jobs
  - Contacted MCPS ESOL instructors to recruit possible adult instructors

- Piloting use of smart phone applications
  - MCAEL has 6 pilots in process to start between February and May 2020 that will utilize a smartphone app (Learning Upgrade) with a variety of partners to test the viability of learning apps supplements to MCAEL's network of classes. Pilots are anticipated with a current nonprofit grant partner (with 3 cohorts (staff, trainees in childcare (Spanish), and potentially CREA students), schools and with a Spanish ministry in East County.

3) **Continued Support for Grants Maintain current, strong grant pool**
   - MCAEL has assessed its recent data and will be increasing the Access grant maximum grant to $20,000 per grant, (from $15,00) for the FY21 cycle. This grant amount has remained static since 2015, while the Program grants have seen significant increases. MCAEL has analyzed our data and it shows that the Access grants are continuing to serve more learners with continued program growth, thus the increased investment will support that growth.
   - Create new grant pool to support 3-5 new drop-in conversation classes in East County and/or UpCounty. These $5,000 grants will be paired with technical assistance and use the MCAEL new Program Administrator Toolkit for outreach and training. The applicants will likely not have to complete a full grant application and we hope this effort will connect to new organizations and help them get started on a more level playing field.

4) **Professional Development – continued investment in and recruitment of insructors**
   - MCAEL is organizing the 2nd MCAEL Professional Development Conference "Connecting the Community Through English Language Instruction" on March 7, 2020 at the Montgomery College Germantown Campus. This is open to all Montgomery County instructors and will feature 8 professional development workshops, keynote speaker Crystal Townsend.
   - Webinars -MCAEL is continuing to offer ongoing Network and Provider meetings and is also offering some of these regular trainings via Webinars through ZOOM.
   - Collaboration with the TED program at Montgomery College to connect potential instructors with ESOL programs

5) **Equity**
   - Participation in Leadership Montgomery's Racial Equity Training – Last Spring 2 MCAEL staff and 1 board member participated in the 2-day racial equity training
   - October 2019 – May 2020 – MCAEL (with generous support from the HealthCare Initiative Foundation) is one of the participant organizations in the first cohort of the Racial Equity Action Leadership (REAL) training through Leadership Montgomery. It is anticipated that MCAEL will be developing a strategic plan around our work and how we can address inequities through this program.

6) **Workforce Development**
   - MCAEL continues to bring classes to employers at their workplaces. Currently, MCAEL has classes at GEICO, Asbury Methodist Village and two hotels (working with BF Saul). We are in the process of working with White Oak Medical Center, restaurants in downtown Silver Spring and Wheaton, and a construction company to bring classes. We are assessing what staffing structure we need in place to more proactively market workplace based ESOL. Currently, we are receiving some fee for service revenue, as well as using some grant funding to support this work.
   - Child Care Workers – MCAEL is working with one nonprofit (Identity) to determine if we can collaborate on supporting their childcare worker training with English classes
   - Child Care Resource and Referral Center – upcoming meeting to determine collaboration with their trainings

7) **Build on existing work with MCPS and MCPL**
   - Train conversation class coordinators at libraries and add learners
   - Pilot use of learning apps to supplement in class and out of class experiences for parents and children
   - Coordinate new classes with MCPS to focus on reaching parents at elementary schools using learning apps

MCAEL continues to compare overall American Community Survey (ACS) data with coalition wide data.[2] These data figures continue to show that MCAEL coalition (including funded and nonfunded programs are serving about 10-12% of the LEP population.).

MCAEL's work (grant making, capacity building, training and technical assistance) is informed by data. MCAEL's output and outcomes data is included in our FY19 Report, https://mcael.org/sites/default/files/mcael_fy19_annual_report.pdf. MCAEL measures progress not only for the increase in English skills of individual learners through specific indicators of success, but also for programs using the international TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) standards for adult ESOL programs.

MCAEL continues to work with County Stat to analyze & present FY 19 grantee data. However, due to some changes at County Stat, our data is not yet available. (*Note: This data analysis and presentation is provided IN -KIND by County Stat and MCAEL would be unable to provide the breadth and depth of data without at least another $50,000-75,000. This data is published (alongside the FY17, FY16 & FY15 data) on-line via our website*). This provides a more robust platform for coalition and community members to use the data with interactive heat maps and several years of comparative information.

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[2] Number of LEP adults in the county; remains about constant:
ACS 2017 average is about 127,000 adults who identify as Limited English Proficient (LEP)

Selected Learner Information & Outcomes

MCAEL grantees continue to track individual learner outcomes through indicators of success. The coalition continues to refine data collection and analysis on many levels; the following show some highlights of learner gains from FY19 grantee data reports:

   A. Learner Outcomes

MCAEL continues to collect data from coalition providers on a wide variety of data points: numbers of learners served, age, country of origin, location. Additionally, each program provides an Outcomes Report which asks them to project "How much will be done?" (#'s students served); "How well will it be done?" (retention rates, planned program improvements); and "Was anyone better off?" (# of students that complete, what were their goals, how is language gain measured.) The data collection that has been developed through collaborative coalition efforts over the years was critical to the information recently presented to county council. The ability to capture how well the coalition is doing and compare that to census data is key to the coalition's success.

MCAEL grantees continue to track individual learner outcomes through indicators of success. As in past years, MCAEL providers collect data on individual goals set by learners and whether they achieved those goals. The attached chart shows that almost 5,000 learners identified goals in the Increased Ability to Use English in Daily Living category, and almost 90% of them made progress on this goal. The other goal categories also show over 80% success in outcomes for progress made in goal areas. The only one that is below 80% is community connectedness. We will look into whether we can learn anything from this category and the lower levels of accomplishments.

One of the key concepts for adult education is to ensure that adults can set goals that are meaningful for them. The high numbers of MCAEL learners that achieve success and progress is tied not only to excellent instruction and solid programs, but also to ensuring that adults can make progress in areas that are important to them.

Selected Program Improvements & Outcomes

MCAEL collects program improvement information from its grantees each year. The following are selected program improvements from grantees in FY19.
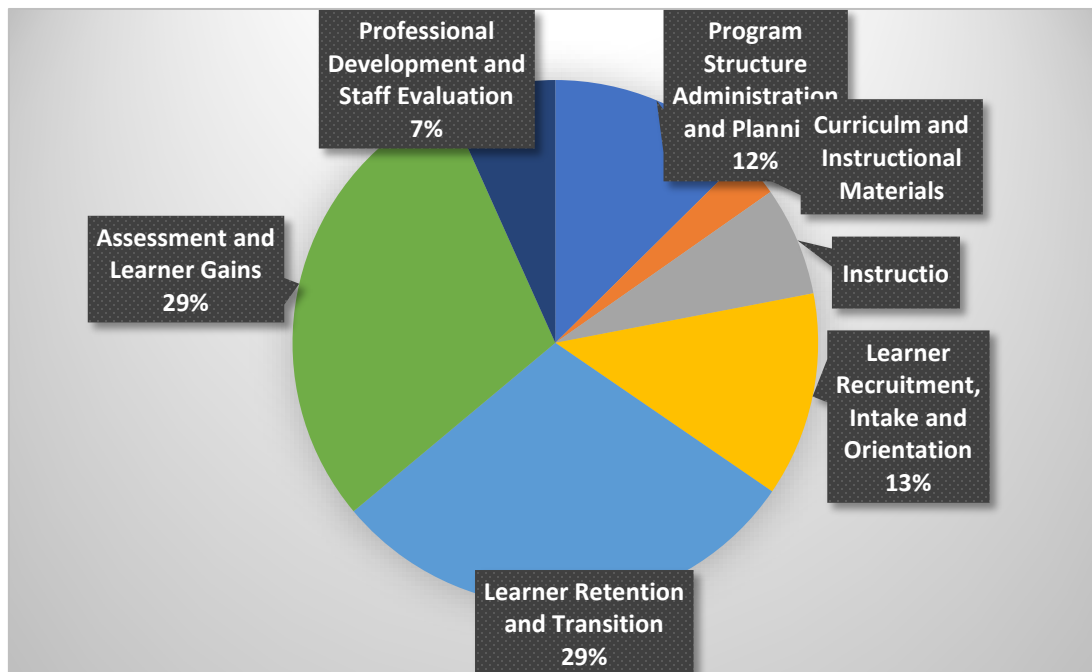
MCAEL Program Outcomes
MCAEL's work (grant making, capacity building, training and technical assistance) is informed by data. MCAEL's output and outcomes data is included in our FY19 Report https://www.mcael.org/sites/default/files/mcael_fy19_annual_report.pdf: MCAEL measures progress and outcomes not only for the increase in English skills of individual learners through specific indicators of success, but also for programs using the international TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) standards for adult ESOL programs. For purposes of this memo, below is a deeper dive into the progress that the coalition has made on program improvement.

Each year, as part of MCAEL's grant process grant recipients identify goals and then report on progress their *programs* are making with regard to TESOL standards. There are 9 standards: Program

Structure, Administration, and Planning; Curriculum and Instructional Materials; Instruction; Learner Recruitment, Intake and Orientation; Learner Retention and Transition; Assessment and Learner Gains; Employment Conditions and Staffing; Professional Development and Staff Evaluation; Support Services.

This chart shows the TESOL standards chosen by programs during FY19 where they focused their work:

FY 19 Program Identified TESOL Standard Areas for Improvement

Excerpts from narrative reports regarding outcomes realized in program improvement:

- With MCAEL technical assistance and financial support, **Covenant Life Church** (Access Grant) adopted a new learner assessment method. "…we gained much more information on our student's English abilities and areas of weakness with the CASAS tests than with our previous assessment method. This allowed our teachers to adjust their class content and activities to serve the students better. We also were able to objectively track students' progress in a way that we had not been able to do before and were pleased to see student's growth illustrated in end of year test results….We are grateful to MCAEL for providing the finances to purchase the CASAS material and for providing technical assistance in the FY18 fiscal year to learn how implement the test."

- The **Thriving Germantown ESOL program managed by Family Services, Inc.** focused on learner retention in FY19, and implemented a number of changes that proved successful. "The overall attendance rate from last fiscal year to this fiscal increased by 23%. Overall, the persistence rate increased slightly for FY19. However, the persistence rate for each session increased between 5-10%. While the goal of a 65% overall persistence rate wasn't achieved, progress was made towards the goal. The progress affected TG's outcomes in a positive way, particularly with learner success. Forty-six evaluations were collected throughout FY19 from

learners. Of those evaluations, 85% reported an increase in their speaking abilities, 89% reported being able to understand more spoken English, and 83% of learners reported feeling more confident speaking English."

- In FY19, **Catholic Charities** focused on the use of technology as a way to both improve the curriculum and keep learners engaged. "In some classes, the use of Google Classroom will be integrated into the curriculum, which allows the instructor to upload lessons and activities online that learners can then access from home. Instructors will assign these lessons over weekends and will facilitate discussions about their content in person during the first class of the following week. As many of our students are low-income and may not have a computer at home, Catholic Charities will help students access these materials in a number of ways. …students who choose to enroll in the hybrid class will have much more flexibility in their approach to learning. With lessons and activities being posted online through the use of Google Classroom, students can complete a week's coursework as their schedule allows. The lessons that were completed independently are then discussed in class, so students can ask questions and continue to practice their speaking skills. Since students in the hybrid class will have to attend fewer in-person class sessions, they are better able to work around their existing schedules to accommodate their learning and still complete course requirements."

- In FY18, **CASA** made extensive updates to its Life Skills ESOL curriculum and used student focus groups and teacher surveys to identify aspects of the new curriculum that were effective, and those that needed further development. In **FY19** CASA continued to refine and update the curriculum based on the recommendations of the program's stakeholders. In addition, CASA staff pulled together an online library of supplemental materials and instructional resources that "… support immigrant integration by incorporating authentic references to local neighborhoods, businesses and services, and we have added resources to aid learners in identifying real world opportunities to practice English outside of the classroom through independent study and community engagement." … "We have also added new activities that promote digital and financial literacy as well as strategic career planning in our learners' stated areas of interest…. The new instructional materials have also had a positive impact on overall attendance and learner participation; average attendance for the year was 68%, up from 61% in FY18, and the persistence rate was 62%, up from 55% in FY18.

Anticipating New Outcome Measurements

As MCAEL works on system-wide continuous improvement with the network. We will continue gathering and analyzing current outcomes measurements. At the same time as we add new initiatives and work with programs to enhance long-term outcomes we are investigating new measurements such as: working with a few key programs to gather data that can show how learners stay with their programs over time and what progress that individual reports in terms of employment, education (self and family), and overall community participation. Additionally, as MCAEL implements new strategies (see section 4) we will be identifying outcomes measurements for program and individual success.

2. Financial Update

FY 20 Funding from Montgomery County:

In FY 20, MCAEL received $1,857,058 from Montgomery County. That funding was divided as follows:

MCAEL Grants $1,260,000

MCAEL Operating $597,058

Total County Funding FY 20 $1,857,058

In FY 20, MCAEL Grants totaling $1,260,000 are being distributed to 27 programs at 20 organizations.   https://www.mcael.org/sites/default/files/fy20_grant_announcement.pdf

MCAEL has requested a budget increase of $100,000 - $150,000 to continue to develop new partners (new providers through training and eth use of the newly published Program Administrator Toolkit), add to Access grants, develop greater ability to use and manage technology for learners, and support coordination with MCPL, MCPS and workforce development.

Funding Items to Note:

- New grantees
  - Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association (dba– Association of Vietnamese Americans) – focused English classes to prepare for citizenship
  - Washington New Covenant Fellowship Church -providing English classes to a predominately Korean population in UpCounty

MCAEL's FY 20 budget reflects planned additional fundraising of over $135,000 to supplement the MCAEL operating budget. We are on track or ahead in our fundraising categories.

County Funded MCAEL Grants:

Funding year	Amount funded	Organizations Funded[3]	Programs Funded	Classes Provided	Learners Served
FY 20	$1,260,000	20	27 (9 program grants, 18 access grants)	564 (projected)	Target- 7931
FY 19	$1,190,000	20	27 (9 program grants, 18 access grants)	543	Actual- 7631

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[3] FY 19 -MCAEL had requests for funding from 21 organizations and 28 programs for a total of $1,367,596 in requested funding.   Most programs did not receive full funding. FY18 – Requests came from 23 organizations for 28 programs for $1,270,958.

MCAEL Staff & Board:

MCAEL continues with 5.5 FTE's to support the coalition and our additional new programming. MCAEL has board of 11 individuals, recently adding Rodney Redmond (Montgomery College, College-wide Instructional Dean, English & Reading) and Sean Klein (Rosetta Stone, General Counsel and .

3. Future Work and Conclusion

MCAEL continues to support a diverse network of adult English literacy programs in order to meet the wide variety of needs our county has for adult education of this type. Our progress continues to show through program improvements, individual learner gains, and recognition of the collaborative and innovative work we are doing as a coalition (piloting smart phone apps and publishing the coalition wide program administrator toolkit).

MCAEL is focused on continuing to reach our 21,000 by 2021 goal – serving more students each year. expanding access for learners at new partner locations, new areas in the County (continued focus on East County and Up-County) and at workplaces.

MCAEL providers continue to have some success with Spanish Literacy classes (or blended models). Both CASA and Catholic Charities have growing programs (with hybrid models). We can provide more specific information from the providers if necessary.

We look forward to our continued support from and work with the county government.
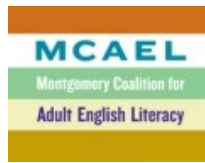
2018 – 2021 STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission:

The Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy strengthens the countywide adult English literacy network to support a thriving community and effective workforce.

Vision:

MCAEL envisions a culturally diverse community where dreams are achieved through the power of English literacy.

Values:

- **Partnerships**: MCAEL's coalition model includes community members, business, government, nonprofits, educators, faith-based groups and the learners themselves working together.

- **Empowerment**: Effective MCAEL programs create a level playing field for adults now and their children in the future.

- **Innovation**: MCAEL's programs incorporate sustainability, technology and real-world examples to benefit learners.

- **Impact**: Quality English instruction reaches a growing number of learners each year through the coalition programs and the staff and instructors.

2018-2021 Strategic Vision Statement

While the coalition of providers remains committed to maintain the quality of programs and instruction and the number of adult learners it serves has increased over the past 6 years, there continue to be tens of thousands of learners who are limited in their English proficiency. ***By 2021, MCAEL will increase the number of learners who are on a pathway to proficiency from 15,000 to 21,000.***

Goals:

21,000 by 2021!

1. Continue empowering providers to offer quality programs and instruction that lead to learning gains.

2. Increase number of high-quality instructors.

3. Expand partnerships to enable access to a range of new workplace and community-based classes.

4. Strengthen MCAEL's branding and outreach to potential partners and learner populations.

5. Expand funding streams.

Strategies:

a. Offer a range of trainings, workshops and other program and instructor development.
b. Leverage innovative technologies to improve communication with and training for providers' staff.
c. Promote use of technology to improve quality and/or efficiency of instruction.
d. Continue advisory groups and feedback loops to connect needs to MCAEL program offerings and support.
e. Offer activities to enhance MCAEL's resource role, such as focused support for small and emerging programs, and coordinated data and publicity opportunities.

a. Promote established ESOL instructional standards.
b. Identify and develop untapped sources of instructors.
c. Develop and provide training to new instructors and tutors.
d. Convene teachers by region and provide guidance, support and ongoing best practices.

a. Identify industry sectors of interest and socially-conscious businesses in the county.
b. Attract businesses to partner with the MCAEL coalition.
c. Identify other partners (nonprofits, faith-based, etc.) to provide classes in underserved regions and for underserved populations, for examples, speakers of Asian languages and the Muslim community.
d. Work with grantees and staff to attract unmet communities to programs.

a. Assess branding, including organization name, tagline and logo.
b. Determine how current programs can be utilized as a branding opportunity.
c. Educate public about benefits of ESOL instruction.

a. Establish a leadership giving circle from former board members, leaders of ESOL, high donor groups and alumni.
b. Identify potential new foundation and corporate partners.
c. Prospect, identify and convert existing one-time donors to ongoing donors, and identify new donors
d. Identify possibilities for joint grant applications with providers.
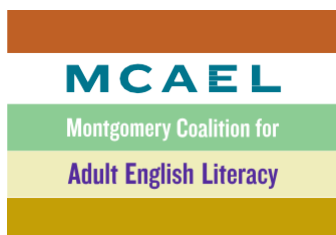
MCAEL ANNUAL REPORT TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Submitted by Kathy Stevens, Executive Director

July 31, 2019

Scope of Services

The Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL) is contracted by Montgomery County to be the convener and coordinator for adult English services in the county. The contract is administered by the Montgomery County Public Library department. MCAEL must promote English Literacy, leverage private and public monies for Adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services, and assist ESOL providers in building their capacity to increase the quality of ESOL services they provide.

MCAEL continues to provide capacity building and public education and engagement regarding the need for and benefits from adult English classes (ESOL) for our neighbors. MCAEL's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan calls for increasing the number of adults the coalition as a whole serves annually from about 15,000 a year to 21,000 per year through increased outreach, new access points for adult learners (through new organizations and/or with new tutors and volunteers), and we continue to align our programs to meet the needs of adult learners and count priorities.

Throughout FY19, MCAEL undertook the following activities in line with the general purpose of the funding and the specific Scope of Services identified in Section II of the contract, with the following results:

1.   Maintain a database of ESL providers, teachers, advocates and advocacy groups that serve the residents in Montgomery County or could be of benefit to ESL providers that serve Montgomery County residents.
MCAEL maintains a broad database of people, groups and partners in the Montgomery County ESOL world. This includes, but is not limited to donors, allies, advocates, instructors, provider staff, elected officials, business and community leaders.

MCAEL maintains separate communication lists to provide both general information to the network and our partners as well as targeted information for both staff at ESOL organizations and ESOL instructors:

Salesforce CRM	
Providers	243
Instructors	876
Community	1661
Total:	2,780
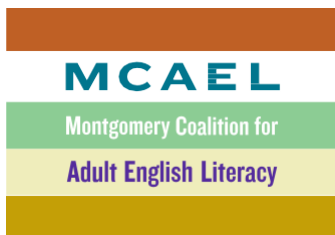
2. Provide notice of funding and grants opportunities, national and state policy issues, best practices and professional development by e-mail alerts to County ESL providers. The contractor must provide at least one such notice per week.

Communications:
- Our newsletter subscribers total 2,750+ (receiving communications from MCAEL at least monthly.)
- MCAEL serves as a communication hub by utilizing Facebook, Twitter and our website (including a new blog as of 2019) to disseminate information & connect community members.
- Circulated 56 electronic e-announcements (July-June) via the e-lists and additional social media and website postings with information, current events, and shared coalition news and events several times per week.

3. Administer grants to providers of adult English literacy services, with the purpose of supporting existing activities, expanding activities, and improving the capacity of providers to deliver high-quality services.

- For FY19, MCAEL awarded $1,190,000 in grant funding with funds provided by Montgomery County. The funding supported 27 adult English literacy programs at 20 organizations. At glance data points:
- Grant funding allowed organizations to serve:
  - ESOL Adult Learner Enrollments for FY19 – 7,631
  - Over 4,932 unique learners were served (suggesting new learners in new classes as well as continuing adult learners)
  - Classes offered – MCAEL grant recipients offered 532 classes

Through additional funding MCAEL offers instructor workshops, provider meetings, technical assistance and ongoing information exchange, and other resources that non-grantee organizations and their staffs take advantage of. Thus, the total reach of the coalition results in over 15,000 learners being supported by the coalition network.

Grants Management:
- Work closely with grantees throughout the year vis-a-vis individual meetings and calls, network meetings, Mid-Year and Final reports to track data and outcomes, and site visits as staff time allows.
- Developed and implemented an online grant management system, with a kick-off in January 2019 for the FY20 grant application process.
- Managed the FY20 grant application process, including recruitment of 9 new grant panel members, and training on the new online grant review process.

Capacity/Quality FY19

- Provided Technical assistance to 3 organizations
  - *Gaithersburg Beloved Community Inc.* - designed a tailored workshop for instructor training for conversation classes

- - *MCPS Linkages to Learning* – Guidance on formal and informal assessments to re-assess what they are using to conduct student assessments and tailor those appropriately
  - *Thurgood Marshall Elementary School* – conversation class for parents with children at the school
- Conducted 10 Instructor observations for 4 providers to provide peer guidance and coaching
- Site visits to 6 provider organizations & meetings with new grant applicants to observe programs and provide input and guidance on program improvement
- Awarded 1 scholarship for conference attendance as part of Debbie Bhattacharyya professional development awards
- Developed the "P*rogram Administrator Toolkit: A Guide to Implementing and Managing Community-Based Adult ESOL Classes and Programs*". This Toolkit, which has been on the MCAEL wish list for many years, is a robust publication that will be a guide post for any community based ESOL program. MCAEL worked with an expert author and gathered practical tips, lessons learned, templates and notes from the field from many MCAEL Coalition participants. This Toolkit will be published (August 2019) on line and in print and will be presented at a national conference in September

4. Conduct an Outcomes Project that measures the quality and effectiveness of ESL service delivery. Grantees/Providers receiving funds from MCAEL must submit demographic and performance data to MCAEL as a condition of their funding. MCAEL must ensure that Grantees/Providers comply with the established reporting requirements and all reporting deadlines.

- MCAEL requests detailed learner and program improvement data from MCAEL-funded programs. All new programs are oriented regarding data requirements. MCAEL provides output data (number of learners served) and outcomes data what did those leaners accomplish), as well as program improvement information.
- For the 4th year in a row, MCAEL worked with CountyStat to develop the FY18 Data Presentation (available at https://mcael.org/montgomery-county-md) based on US Census and learner demographic data, to better understand program successes, resource deployment as as well as what geographic areas and populations are underserved.
- MCAEL engaged graduate interns from the University of Maryland School of Information to develop data visualizations for FY18 learner data collected from individual MCAEL-funded programs. These visualizations were provided to each provider organization to inform program planning and to help illustrate program outcomes for their funders.
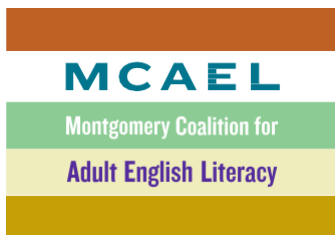
5.   Offer 10 meetings per year for the 60 active ESL providers (non-profit and for-profit, large and small, secular and faith-based) already in the Coalition and others as they are identified. These meetings are required for grantees/providers receiving funds from MCAEL. Meetings will offer all MCAEL grantees/providers the opportunity to share information; work collectively on issues facing the teaching and funding of ESL; leverage their combined resources for increased funding and more effective delivery of ESL services, as well as better purchasing power.

MCAEL provides a robust schedule of opportunities for detail ESOL professional development and meetings and workshops to address current issues (I.e., immigration issues that affect learners and the program staff) and emerging topics. MCAEL served over 350 individuals from 41 organizations.

In FY19, we hosted 8 daytime meetings/workshops for program staff and interested community partners and 10 instructor workshops. **MCAEL provided a total of 51 hours of comprehensive professional development.**

- Provider Meeting Results

    Survey results (average % over all five meetings):

    o   "I networked with colleagues in my field" – 78%
    o   "I gained useful information from this meeting" – 87%
    o   "Meeting was a good use of my time" – 83.6%
- Workshops scored an overall 92% rating for "I will use material from this training in the Adult ESOL classes I teach." The average Workshop rating given by the participants: 94% (Outstanding/Very Good).

    Through workshops and meetings, MCAEL served/connected 301 individuals (staff and instructors) within 41 organizations. We leveraged connections to course instructors including national and local teaching staff and experts.

6.   Provide information to the community and students seeking ESL and information resources through an electronically available Provider Directory listing ESL Providers in Montgomery County and their services, available on MCAEL's website. This website must also contain MCAEL's grant Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and links to other adult ESOL resources, such as advocacy, training, and other professional development and capacity building resources.

- MCAEL website was revised for the first time in over 8 years. The new site incorporates new features for partner organizations to update directory listings including class offerings and class registrations on a shared calendar.
    o   Log-in access for provider and coalition members
    o   Ability to update/add their organization listing directly on the site
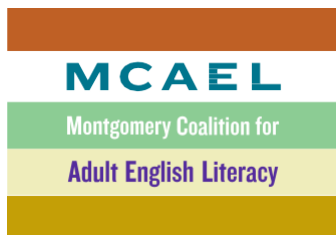
- o Ability to update/add job and volunteer opportunities
    - o Interactive calendar – users can add events
- MCAEL website provides an interactive directory of known provider organizations in the county with contact, location, class level, etc. information.
- Printed and distributed 12,000 Provider Directory copies:
    - o Distributed directories to *154* organizations directly and another *250 via 15+* events in the County.
    - o Language Access: Directories were printed in English, Spanish (3,000 copies) and Amharic (250 printed as a pilot) - both Spanish and Amharic directories were in high demand and we ran out part-way through the year
- Contracted with WizeHive for new grants portal to create new efficiencies for grantees, MCAEL staff and data collection and analysis
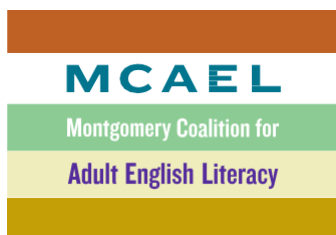
Supplemental Charts

1. Events attended and network building: (sample of major and regular event attendance by MCAEL staff)

• Bethesda Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce – (Events & Economic Development Committee Meetings) • Community Foundation Funders Roundtables • Gaithersburg Coalition Provider Meetings • Down County Service Providers Network • Nonprofit Montgomery Events /Board Meetings • Interfaith Works Events • Leadership Montgomery events • English Now! Meetings and events	• Montgomery County Public Schools Prekindergarten/Head Start Programs Annual Community Providers' Collaboration Forum and Parent Outreach Open House • Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Events • Complete Count Census organizing meetings • Montgomery Moving Forward Steering Committee Meetings /Convenings/Learning Gatherings • Montgomery College events and convenings

2. Communication - announcements on resources & opportunities including but not limited to:

• Professional development trainings/ conferences (local, regional & national) • MCAEL meetings and workshops • Community meetings (e.g. Down County Providers, Workforce Mtgs) • Awards and stipends and additional funding opportunities for instructors • Surveys to gain feedback and insight on how to improve MCAEL provider and instructor meetings	• Donated supplies/books to member organizations (local & national) • Current research, ESOL best practices/teaching tools • Citizenship challenges • Information on current political climate issues • Fundraising and Advocacy • Monthly ESOL Organization Spotlight

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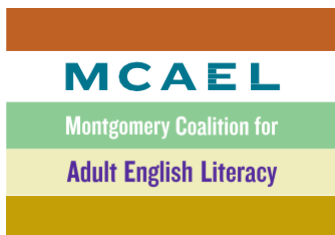|	
	• Special Instructor and Provider Survey to identify needs and approach for recruiting and training new ESOL instructors

3. Meetings, Workshops and Trainings offered by MCAEL:

Provider Meeting Topics:

Provider "hot topic" Meetings	Network Meetings
• Provider Meeting # 1 Working with volunteers October 3rd, 2018 • Provider Meeting # 2 Changing Immigration Policy and the effect on our learners December 5th, 2018 • Provider Meeting # 4 Assessment Series – Part 1 March 6th, 2019 • Provider Meeting Assessments Part 2 May 1st, 2019 • Managing Stress in the Classroom, June 12, 2019	• Program Partner Orientation July 31st, 2018 • Provider Meeting Grant Information Session January 30, 2019 • Annual Meeting June 19, 2019 –This was the fifth annual opportunity to bring provider representatives together with MCAEL board members and community members to discuss priorities, opportunities and challenges.

Instructor Workshop Topics: (developed with the Instructor Advisory Group)

Fall Workshops	Spring Workshops
• More Learning, Less Teaching Oct 20, 2018 and November 3, 2018 • Cookies & Coffee - November 15, 2018 • Finding and Leveraging Numeracy in the everyday Adult ESL classroom - November 16, 2018 • Color Vowel Chart - December 7, 2018	• Student Talk: The Value for your students and their learning - February 8, 2019 • Engaging Technology and English Language Learners - March 1, 2019 • More Learning, Less Teaching April 6, 2019 and April 13, 2019 • Teaching Conversation Skills May 3, 2019 • Strategies for Teaching Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students June 5, 2019 • More Learning, Less Teaching June 9, 2019 and June 23, 2019

Leveraged Expert Connections:

To provide expert training and information, MCAEL identifies area experts to present to or develop workshops for the coalition.

> Montgomery College, Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School, English Language Training Solutions a, English Now!, MDTESOL, WATESOL, ProLiteracy, COABE (Coalition On Adult Basic Education), ELEVATE, National Coalition for Literacy, Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, CASA, Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center, Department of Labor Licensing and Regulations, Montgomery County Volunteer Center, Interfaith Works Events

MCAEL's adherence to general nonprofit best practice activities:

MCAEL is governed by a Board of Directors which has fiduciary duty to oversee the efficient operation of MCAEL in compliance with applicable legal and nonprofit standards.

- MCAEL had an annual clean audit conducted by the firm of Saggar and Rosenberg.
- MCAEL recruited and oriented two new board members.
- MCAEL's executive director provided regular reports to the board
- Staff are reviewed and evaluated annually

Upcoming projects and initiatives:

MCAEL continues to work toward "21,000 by 2021" increasing the number of adult learners served from 15,000 each year to 21,000 each year. MCAEL is identifying ways to recruit and train new instructors, identify a potential volunteer cohort to act as MCAEL ambassadors and language coaches to create entry points for adults onto a pathway to English literacy, and continuing to expand its work to bring classes to workplaces for employers and their employees. More information is available on our website for data maps, strategic plans and ongoing initiatives. The current political climate continues to create an atmosphere of uncertainty and tensions - some adults are pushing to get English classes in order to gain citizenship while others are reluctant to enroll in classes give the uncertainty of treatment of immigrants in certain communities. We continue to work closely with Montgomery County Government and are appreciative of all the support from the county.

MCAEL
Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy

2020 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 FY20 for programs during the period July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. For FY20, MCAEL's priorities are to support the expansion of services for underserved populations and in underserved areas such as Up County and East County as well as for 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 Awardees

Ana A. Brito Foundation, Inc.
Bender JCC of Greater Washington
Briggs Center for Faith and Action
CASA
Catholic Charities
Chinese Cultural Community Service Center
Community Reach *formerly Community Ministries of Rockville*
Covenant Life Church
Ethiopian Community Center
Family Services, Inc.

George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy
Identity, Inc.
Impact Silver Spring
International Rescue Committee
Literacy Council of Montgomery County
*Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association (MVMA) - *Association of Vietnamese Americans*
Rockville Seniors, Inc.
Seneca Creek Community Church
Vietnamese American Services
*Washington New Covenant Fellowship Church

FY 20

TOTAL REQUESTED FUNDING
20 organizations, 27 programs and over $1,485,285 in requests

TOTAL AWARDS

- $1,260,000 in grant funding
- Grants awarded to support 20 organizations for 27 programs
- 9 Program Grants and 19 Access Grants**

Legend

Transportation   Childcare

* New FY20 Partner
** For a description of grant types please see: http://mcael.org/grants

See our full directory at: **http://mcael.org/directory** ⑱

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

Childcare

Catholic Charities
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. Operating out of the Spanish Catholic Center in Gaithersburg, the program will serve over 500 individuals in FY19.

www.catholiccharitiesdc.org

Childcare

Community Reach
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

Childcare

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

Childcare

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. 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

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   Childcare

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/community-engagement/linkages-to-learning

Childcare

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 in 7 sites throughout the county to adult learners where English proficiency is a tool for success in achieving employment, academic, and everyday life goals.

www.literacycouncilmcmd.org

Transportation

Rockville Seniors Inc.
Rockville Senior Center English Program
$50,000

The program provides opportunities for immigrants over the age of 60 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.

www.rockvillemd.gov/index.aspx?nid=397

Transportation

Access Grants

Bender JCC of Greater Washington
Gateways Seniors
$2,500

This program is focused on offering a comprehensive ESOL program for immigrant seniors and taught by dedicated volunteers. The program serves a mainly Russian-speaking population of seniors and concentrates on incorporating daily life skills, including reading and conversation.

www.benderjccgw.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

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
Rockville - Silver Spring - Wheaton 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

Community Reach
LOP and LOP/Interfaith Clothing Center Conversation Groups
$ 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

Childcare

Access Grants

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

Identity, Inc. English Literacy for Disconnected Young Adults
$15,000

To provide basic level ESOL classes to 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

Transportation

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.

www.impactsilverspring.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.

www.fs-inc.org

Childcare

George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy Adult Literacy Class at Montgomery Blair 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.

www.saturdayschool.org

Childcare

www.mcael.org

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Rockville, MD 20850

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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.

www.Rescue.org/Silverspring

Childcare

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 community by providing opportunities for individuals to grow and prosper socially and financially through improved English language communication skills.

www.senecacreek.org

Childcare

*Washington New Covenant Fellowship Church
English Classes
$10,000

Provide English learning opportunities to the immigrant population in Germantown. Strengthen English proficiency so that students can to take on more active roles in the local community.

www.senecacreek.org

Childcare

Vietnamese American Services
English Classes for Daily Conversation
$14,100

- Vietnamese American Services offers drop-in English classes for Vietnamese American community from low-socioeconomic background in Montgomery County. The program provides opportunities for this under-served 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.

English Classes for Specific Needs
$14,100

- The 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

*Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Associations Association of Vietnamese Americans
New Americans Advocacy Services
$8,800

U.S. Citizenship Test Preparation classes in Gaithersburg and Silver Spring locations during the Fall 2019, Winter 2019 and Spring 2020 sessions. To help Vietnamese American green card holders with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) pass the U.S. Citizenship oral and written exams by preparing them to pass the practice tests. Learners will improve their English skills for a specific purpose: to become a productive US citizen with all the rights and benefits reserved, including the right to vote.

www.avaus.org

www.mcael.org

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Rockville, MD 20850

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's needs, nonprofit management, adult literacy and grant making.

Timeline

January/February • MCAEL RFPs released; Grant Information Workshop 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.

FY20 Grant Review Panel

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

Taina Alexander
Rosemary Botchway
Michael Breuer
Barbara Crews
Hawa Farah
Stephanie Freeman
Alex Galen

Algenis Liriano
*Stacy Parkinson
Ernesto Pineda
Chelsea Selby
Laurene Thomas
Abigail Wacker

MCAEL Board Members*

www.mcael.org

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