



# 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

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Ana A. Brito Foundation, Inc.<br/>         Bender JCC of Greater Washington<br/>         Briggs Center for Faith and Action<br/>         CASA<br/>         Catholic Charities<br/>         Chinese Cultural Community Service Center<br/>         Community Reach <i>formerly Community Ministries of Rockville</i><br/>         Covenant Life Church<br/>         Ethiopian Community Center<br/>         Family Services, Inc.</p> | <p>George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy<br/>         Identity, Inc.<br/>         Impact Silver Spring<br/>         International Rescue Committee<br/>         Literacy Council of Montgomery County<br/>         *Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association (MVMA) -<br/> <i>Association of Vietnamese Americans</i><br/>         Rockville Seniors, Inc.<br/>         Seneca Creek Community Church<br/>         Vietnamese American Services<br/>         *Washington New Covenant Fellowship Church</p> |
|---|--|

### 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

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <br>Transportation | <br>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>

# 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](http://www.wearecasa.org)



## 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](http://www.aabfi.org)



## 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](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org)



## 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](http://www.ethiopiancommunitydc.org)

## 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](http://www.cmrocks.org)



[www.mcael.org](http://www.mcael.org)

9210 Corporate Blvd., Suite 480  
Rockville, MD 20850



# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/index.aspx?nid=397)



Transportation



[www.mcael.org](http://www.mcael.org)

9210 Corporate Blvd., Suite 480  
Rockville, MD 20850



# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.cmrocks.org)



[www.mcael.org](http://www.mcael.org)

9210 Corporate Blvd., Suite 480  
Rockville, MD 20850



# 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](http://www.covlife.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](http://www.fs-inc.org)



Childcare

## 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](http://www.identity-youth.org)



Transportation

## 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](http://www.saturdayschool.org)



Childcare

## 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.impactsilverpring.org](http://www.impactsilverpring.org)



[www.mcael.org](http://www.mcael.org)

9210 Corporate Blvd., Suite 480  
Rockville, MD 20850



# 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.



Childcare

[www.Rescue.org/Silverspring](http://www.Rescue.org/Silverspring)

## 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.



Childcare

[www.senecacreek.org](http://www.senecacreek.org)

## \*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 take on more active roles in the local community.



Childcare

[www.senecacreek.org](http://www.senecacreek.org)

## 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](http://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](http://www.avaus.org)



[www.mcael.org](http://www.mcael.org)

9210 Corporate Blvd., Suite 480  
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](http://www.mcael.org)

9210 Corporate Blvd., Suite 480  
Rockville, MD 20850

