

MCAEL History Highlights

2002—Council members Mike Subin, Marilyn Praisner, and Blair Ewing commissioned a study to closely examine the current system of Adult ESL programs in Montgomery County. In response to the Council's request, Montgomery College contracted with the Center for Applied Linguistics to conduct the study.

For approximately six months, Montgomery College and Montgomery County Public Schools collaborated with CAL to convene numerous focus groups, interview participants, and involve community stakeholders in reviewing existing Adult ESL programs in the county. CAL also reviewed course offerings of the major service providers and conducted course observations.

April 2003—Upon Completion of the study, Council President Mike Subin appointed Council member Tom Perez to Chair the Adult ESL Task Force and work with service providers and community stakeholders to develop a strategic action plan for improving the current system of delivery. Councilmember Tom Perez worked with a broad and diverse group of community stakeholders from MCPS, Montgomery College, community based and faith-based organizations, Montgomery County Public Libraries, business leaders, community activists, and other interested parties to address the issue.

2004—The County Council and Montgomery College collaborated to open a Coalition office with a full-time staff person to begin the work of the Coalition under the auspices of Workforce Development and Continuing Education with the Montgomery College Foundation as the fiscal agent.

May 2005—Providers voted to name the Coalition the Montgomery Coalition for Adult Literacy and ESOL (M-CALESOL) and many of those involved in the Adult ESL Task Force formed a Board of Advisors.

Spring 2006—The County Council awards M-CALESOL a grant to support thirteen providers to move an additional 1,005 adults in Montgomery County off the wait lists for ESOL classes. Data collected from grantees is the first-ever attempt to quantify the demand for ESOL in Montgomery County and provides demographic information on those served. Acting Executive Director contracted.

Fall 2006—Montgomery County Council asks M-CALESOL to consider taking on new responsibility of calling for ESOL funding proposals, creating review panels and making recommendations to Council for funding for 2007.

November 2006 – MCAEL incorporated under current name, Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy.

June 2007- MCAEL moves out from under the auspices of Montgomery College into own offices in Kensington, becoming fiscally independent and hiring full time Program Manager (March 2007) and Executive Director (December 2007)

Spring 2008 – County Council designates role for MCAEL to review and award all council funding for adult English literacy programs. MCAEL obtains 501-c-3 status.

July 2009 – MCAEL moves to Nonprofit Village