

Introduction



The Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL) is a vibrant network of adult English language and literacy providers in Montgomery County, Maryland, who collectively help over 20,000 adult learners annually to improve their English literacy and workforce skills. Founded in 2006, MCAEL is part of a national movement of literacy coalitions and was formed to bring a community-wide, collaborative focus to building awareness and infrastructure to support adult English language learning in Montgomery County, Maryland.

MCAEL's mission is to strengthen the county-wide adult English literacy network with resources, training, collaboration and advocacy to support a thriving community and an optimal workforce. Our vision is a community where all adult residents are employable, engaged, and empowered by literacy to achieve their full potential, and where all local businesses have access to an English literate workforce. To achieve this vision, MCAEL focuses on building capacity, leveraging resources, and promoting English-language learning and literacy as key to creating a just, vibrant and equitable community.

In 2006, MCAEL was awarded a three-year Presidents Grant from the Comcast Foundation, focused on building the capacity of community based providers of adult ESOL through instructor training and the development of an outcomes and assessment framework.

Our experience offering trainings brought to light the critical need for a simple reference toolkit for the passionate and dedicated professionals and volunteers who provide instruction to adult English language learners in Montgomery County. We offer our deepest gratitude to the many instructors who bring skills, hope, and opportunity to adult learners each and every day.

MCAEL also wishes to thank those who made this toolkit possible, in particular Christian Clausen, Melissa Zervos, our provider partners, the staff of MSDE, especially Patricia Bennett and Karen Lisch Gianninoto, and our generous volunteers and donors, in particular the Comcast Foundation and the Montgomery County Government.

