

## WE ALL BENEFIT FROM AN ENGLISH LITERATE COMMUNITY

### A Stronger Economy

For every \$1 invested in adult education, there is a **\$3.15 economic benefit** to the community

### A Pathway Out of Poverty

43% of low literacy adults live in poverty

**30% of adult ESOL students** live in the five neighborhoods identified by the county as being at **greatest economic risk**.

An English-proficient worker in Maryland can earn **between \$4,000 and \$15,000 more** annually than a non-English

### A Prepared Workforce

Basic skills would enable businesses to generate **over \$60 billion in productivity**.

## MCAEL: A COMMUNITY-WIDE RESPONSE

The challenge of adult English literacy is significant and requires a solution that goes beyond the doors of a single organization to focus at the community level. For that reason, MCAEL was established in 2006 to:

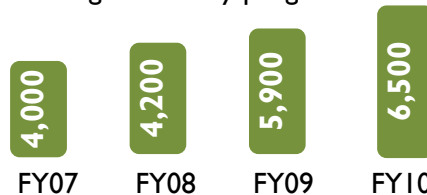
- Increase the quality and availability English literacy services
- Expand and coordinate resources and knowledge
- Promote understanding and awareness among the broader community

### Extending our Reach

Number of programs	2005
	<b>36</b>
providing adult English literacy services in the MCAEL network:	2010
	<b>70+</b>

### Building Capacity

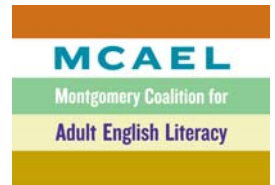
Annual enrollments in MCAEL- funded adult English literacy programs:



MCAEL @ the Nonprofit Village  
12320 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD 20852  
301-881-1338 / [connect@mcael.org](mailto:connect@mcael.org)

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

## THE STATE OF ADULT ENGLISH LITERACY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY 2010



### WHAT

ENGLISH LITERACY is the ability to read, write, and communicate at a level sufficient to reach one's full potential as a parent, worker, and community member.

### WHO

#### WORKERS

**Over 80,000** adult residents lack basic literacy, i.e. the skills to complete a job application.

#### PARENTS

**12,000 or more** children in our public schools have parents with English literacy needs.

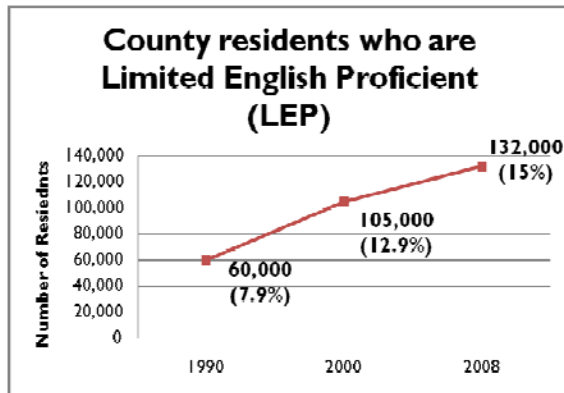
#### COMMUNITY MEMBERS

**132,000** residents are limited in their ability to communicate in English.

## A SIGNIFICANT AND GROWING NEED

Montgomery County has changed dramatically over the last 20 years to become a thriving metropolis that benefits from a rich diversity of cultural and linguistic communities. Alongside this transformation are new challenges for our County.

Today, **one in seven county residents** out of the County's total population of close to one million are limited in their ability to communicate in English –more than double the number just two decades ago.



Source: American Community Survey (ACS)

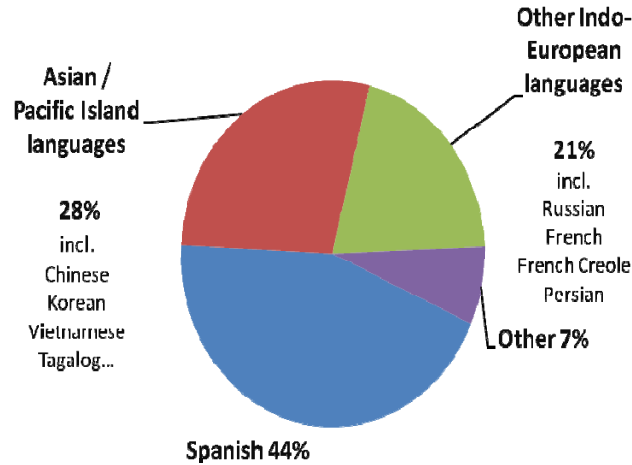
### Diverse LEP Population

#### Diverse Educational Backgrounds

**45%** of foreign-born residents have a bachelor's degree or higher

**18%** of foreign-born residents have not finished high school

### Diversity of Languages Spoken



### Diversity of Goals

English language learners have varying goals that relate to their need to realize their roles as parents, workers and members of the community. Some short-term goals may include:

- ✓ Passing the citizenship test
- ✓ Calling 911
- ✓ Speaking with a child's teacher
- ✓ Communicating with a neighbor
- ✓ Reading a prescription
- ✓ Applying for a job
- ✓ Getting a library card
- ✓ Speaking with a medical provider

## THE CHALLENGES

### English language learners:

- ✓ **Are highly motivated, but face limited opportunities.**

Today, more than **2,000 adults** are on growing **waitlists** to take English classes.

- ✓ **Face a long timeline to learn and advance toward their goals.**

120 hours

Average hours of instruction needed to advance a single English literacy level (six levels to English proficiency)

6-8 years

Average number of years of instruction to achieve English proficiency

- ✓ **Need trusted, convenient and accessible programs.**

