



Agudath Israel of America  
Arab American Family Support Center  
Bronx Works  
Brooklyn Public Library  
Catholic Charities  
Chinatown Manpower Project  
Chinese-American Planning Council  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families  
Community Service Society  
Cypress Hills Local Development Corp  
The Doe Fund  
Edith & Carl Marks Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst  
Fifth Avenue Committee  
Fortune Society  
HANAC  
Institute for Immigrant Concerns, Inc.  
International Center of CCCS  
Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House  
Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island  
Jewish Community Center of Staten Island  
Kingsbridge Heights Community Center  
LaGuardia Community College,  
Adult Community Learning  
Lehman College Adult Learning Center  
Literacy Assistance Center  
Literacy Partners  
Lutheran Family Health Centers Adult and Family Education  
Make the Road New York  
Neighborhood Family Services Coalition  
New York Immigration Coalition  
Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation  
NYC College of Technology Adult Learning Center  
New York City Employment & Training Coalition  
Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow  
Phipps Community Development Corporation  
Queens Community House  
Riverside Language Program  
Shorefront YM-YWHA  
Turning Point Brooklyn  
UAW Region 9A Education Fund  
Union Settlement Association, Inc.  
UJA - Federation of New York  
United Neighborhood Houses  
University Settlement Adult Literacy Program  
YMCA of Greater NY

The **New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy (NYCCAL)** is comprised of teachers, managers, students, and allies from community-based organizations, advocacy groups, public libraries, and colleges in the City University of New York. NYCCAL advocates for an adult literacy system that provides quality, comprehensive, and accessible educational services to current students and other adults who require it. NYCCAL believes that being able to read and write, learn English, obtain a High School Equivalency diploma, and enter training and post-secondary education are the rights of every New Yorker and the cornerstone to an equitable and just society.

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



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## **NYCCAL FY 2017 City Budget Priorities**

*Invest \$16 million in adult literacy at the community-based nonprofit, CUNY, and library systems to address the crisis of 1.7 million New York City residents who lack English proficiency, a high school diploma, or both.*

### **Background:**

- This **new investment** of \$16 million will support 13,300 students in adult literacy programs including English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Basic Education in Native Language (BENL), Adult Basic Education (ABE), and High School Equivalency preparation (HSE).
- For low-income adults in New York, education is a necessary first step to securing employment and successful entry into the job market.
- The decision in FY 2016 to cut over \$6 million in City adult literacy programming eliminated over 6,300 seats, at the same time the State has reduced system capacity
- The cut funding has been devastating to thousands of individuals in the communities we serve as the wait lists for these classes is estimated to be at least 14,000. This number may be underreported as many programs do not maintain wait lists (or cap them) to avoid perpetrating false hope.

### **Need:**

- **According to a report conducted by the Center for an Urban Future, New York State's immigrant population grew by 386,000 people between 2005 and 2013, but during these eight years, state-funded ESOL seats have declined by 32%. Less than 3% of eligible New Yorkers were served.**
- Earnings for individuals in NYC without a diploma are 25% lower than individuals with a high school diploma.
- Spanish-speaking adults lacking English proficiency lose approximately \$3,000 every year in earnings as a result of their limited English.

### **Impact:**

- When there are investments in adult literacy education, the returns are tremendous: for every NYC resident that earns a high school diploma or its equivalent (HSE), there is a net benefit to the City of \$324,000 over their lifetime in terms of increased tax contributions and decreased public benefit utilization.
- **Adult literacy improves the overall well-being of our families and communities.** Individuals with literacy skills are better able to communicate with law enforcement and health professionals, better understand and engage in their children's education, and participate in the civic and social life of their communities.
- The pass rate on the State's adult education exam is twenty-two percentage points higher (66% versus 44%) for those that have access to an adult literacy preparation program.