



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



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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.