FY 2020 - 2021 RECOMMENDATION:

- Restore FY20’s $1.5m enhancement to Adult Literacy Education (ALE)
- Invest an additional $17.2m in ALE for a total of $25m in FY21.

ADULT EDUCATION opens doors by creating opportunities for New Yorkers to learn English, earn a high school equivalency diploma, prepare for vocational and technical jobs, transition to college, pursue citizenship, move the economy forward, and uplift our communities.

Adult Education also educates parents, and research clearly shows that educated parents raise better-educated children who are more likely to succeed in life—and less likely to end up in poverty or prison.

As demand for adult education far exceeds the current investment, we are unable to provide services to all individuals who need them including immigrants, people in poverty, the homeless and inmates reintegrating into society.

Adult Education is lifting people up. Invest in it. Don’t shortchange it.

INVEST IN ADULT LITERACY EDUCATION (ALE)

The Adult Literacy Education (ALE) funding stream, managed by the New York State Education Department, is a critical stream for NYS programs seeking to provide community-based Adult Education programming. Investing in ALE is the easiest way for the State to support high-quality, community-based adult literacy instruction. Many of the positive outcomes we see ALE participants achieve occur because ALE providers are most often trusted community based nonprofits with culturally competent staff and wrap-around support services.
ADULT EDUCATION INVESTMENT IN NEW YORK STATE

Individuals with English and basic skills are better able to obtain living wage jobs, engage in their children’s education, access services, defend their rights, and contribute to the social and civic life of their communities.

ADULT EDUCATION: INVEST IN IT. DON’T SHORTCHANGE IT. #LiteracyLiftsNY

12.5% (1,600,000) of all New Yorkers lack a High School degree/HSE
1,800,000 do not speak English
Only 3% of those eligible for Adult Education are served

Since 2014, Literacy New York and the NYCCAL have shared an agenda for adult education across New York.

NYCCAL advocates for an adult literacy system that provides quality, comprehensive and accessible educational services to the over 2.2 million adults in NYC who need them. NYCCAL believes that being able to read and write, learn English, obtain a High School Equivalency, and enter training and post-secondary education are the rights of every New Yorker, and the cornerstone to an equitable and just society.

Literacy New York (LNY) supports community and college-based literacy providers who provide one-to-one, small group, and classroom based literacy instruction to adult learners in upstate and on Long Island communities. We are committed to advocating for a robust adult literacy system that provides quality, comprehensive, accessible literacy education to New Yorkers who need to raise their literacy skills.