Resources for adult literacy practitioners

The Secretary of State Illinois State Library Literacy office has formulated a listing of resources for adult literacy program staff members who are responsible for developing, planning and implementing volunteer-delivered literacy services for adult learners, as well as those invested in family literacy programming, or staffers collaborating with businesses to educate their employees. The list is available online, organized by theme and regularly updated with new resources. The following content was recently added to the resource list.

http://tosmallfail.org/ — Too Small to Fail is an initiative of the Clinton Foundation that fosters public awareness and action campaigns to promote the importance of early brain and language development and to empower parents with the tools to talk, read and sing with their young children from birth. Through partnerships with public, private and faith-based entities and leaders, Too Small to Fail is attempting to meet parents where they are to help them prepare their children for success in school and beyond. The goal of the initiative is to create meaningful interactions anytime, anywhere.

http://learntoearntoolkit.org/ — The National Center for Families Learning offers the Learn to Earn Tool Kit to assist students in building skills to prepare them for the workforce that includes 10 topic areas of learning. The 10 areas are critical thinking, diversity, English language, information technology application, oral communication, professionalism, reading comprehension, social responsibility, teamwork, and written communication. Specific lessons in each topic area will help students explore career possibilities and learn new vocabulary in context.

https://www.tap-illinois.org/ — The Autism Program (TAP) of Illinois is the largest, comprehensive statewide program in the country dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families. TAP provides a variety of resources and services and collaborates with local agencies to offer services that respond to the unique needs of different communities across Illinois.

The online literacy resource list can be accessed at https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/literacy/library_resource_list.pdf.

http://ohiolearn.org — The Ohio League for Adult Learning is a supporter of adult education literacy programs, and we are both lucky and thankful for his support,” said Susana Ortiz, Founder and Executive Director of Centro Romero, Literacy Works. “It was a great opportunity to meet with the Secretary and showcase our successes along with the incredible educational strides they have accomplished.”

— The Autism Program (TAP) of Illinois

Jesse White
Secretary of State & State Librarian

The Illinois State Library’s Adult Literacy Grant Program continues to provide successful literacy services to adult learners, families and workers throughout the state. In this issue, we share examples of the successes achieved by these learners from fiscal year 2019. Also highlighted is the involvement of public libraries in the program, as well as the outreach programs being implemented in Illinois prisons that help individuals improve their educational levels in an effort to lessen recidivism.

I want to congratulate all adult learners who continue to strive to succeed on their educational journey. We feature a story about women who decided late in life to take advantage of the services available through their local public library by getting their first library cards. Their story serves as an example that age is only a number.

I wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

Jesse White
Secretary of State & State Librarian

UIC Center for Literacy/FAST Services, Instituto del Progreso Latino, Literacy Works, Poder Learning Center, St. Joseph Services, Telpochcalli Community Education Project, The Learning Center/House of Connections, and Universidad Popular.

The Hispanic Literacy Coalition is comprised of 12 agencies in Chicago that provide adult literacy services. The coalition includes Centro Romero, Corazon a Corazon, Enlace Chicago, Erie Neighborhood House,
Fiscal year 2019 Literacy Program statistics and success stories

Fiscal year 2019 final reports submitted by programs funded through the Illinois State Library Literacy office revealed the following statistics. Success stories from each program follow.

Adult Volunteer Literacy
- 11,418 adult learners served
- Average age of an adult learner was 41
- 63 percent of adult learners were studying English as a Second Language (ESL)
- 5,381 volunteer tutors provided services to adult learners
- Average age of volunteer tutors was 51
- At $26.89 per volunteer hour for Illinois, the total dollar value contributed by volunteer tutors was $8,088,576, according to the charitable community group Independent Sector.

Success Story: STAR Literacy Program, Regional Office of Education #17 — DeWitt/Livinston/Logan/McLean counties, Bloomington
A family recently immigrated to the United States from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and like many immigrants, they found themselves struggling to adapt and communicate in a new country. They soon learned through their church about the literacy services available through the Regional Office of Education’s STAR Literacy Program in Bloomington. The parents immediately enrolled in the program and were soon assigned tutors. Program staff worked with the family and assisted them in finding subsidized childcare so they could each work and attend tutoring. The tutors incorporated subject matter into the tutoring sessions that would have an immediate impact on their daily lives. Soon, they were able to attend medical appointments without interpreters, communicate with the children’s teachers, and participate in events at the public library. The impact of the program has touched the entire family as both parents have obtained better jobs, with the mother working as a Certified Nursing Assistant at a local hospital. They have obtained library cards for themselves and their children and frequently use the resources of the library. Both parents continue to work with their tutors to improve their future and the future of their family.

Penny Severson Family Literacy
- 657 adult learners served
- 92 percent of the adults were female
- 85 percent were adult learners studying ESL
- Average age of an adult learner was 33
- 428 participants obtained a library card
- 897 children served
- Average age of children served was 6

Success Story: Chinese Mutual Aid Association, Chicago
A young couple with a two-year-old daughter moved from India to the United States in 2018, and soon after their arrival, the mother enrolled in the family literacy program. Over the course of the program, Chinese Mutual Aid Association’s Family Literacy Program helped this young mother increase her confidence in speaking English, grow her social network and connect her to professional development opportunities.

As statistics show, the average age of adult learners participating in the Secretary of State Illinois State Library Adult Volunteer Literacy Program is 41. Learners must be at least 17 to participate in the program, but there is no age limit on participating. As the adage goes, “you are never too old to learn,” and you are also never too old to get your first library card.

Cynthia Smith is 70 and her friend Shirley Rogers is 55, and they both recently received their very first library card. They are participants in the Family Legacy Foundation’s Adult Volunteer Literacy Program and visited the Chicago Public Library’s Avalon Branch as part of the tutoring program. After receiving their cards, the ladies toured the facility and learned about programs at the library. They were both very excited to be able to check out books and CDs, and they look forward to exploring the world through the library.

“These two women really show that it is never too late in life to learn new things and improve oneself through education,” says Taneesha Rolland, executive director of the Family Legacy Foundation. “The photograph of the two with their very first library card really brightened my day.”

之星文学士学位

通过整个计划，她展示了对提高她的英语水平的强烈承诺，以及通过参加各级 ESL 和父母课程。参与此课程，她在 ESL 和父母课程中一直保持较高的出勤率。在整个计划中，她表现出对学习英语的强烈承诺，提高她的英语水平，建立她的社会网络并连接她到专业发展机会。她对语言和沟通的会话很舒服，她可以与医生和护士以及女儿的老师进行沟通。

这两个人的社会网络发展巨大。通过参与该计划，她发展了与另一个参与者的友谊，他们对家庭的期望之一是拥有孩子，并且这些孩子拥有在家中和在父母面前的社区。当他们成为一个公众人物时，她的丈夫将承担起与来回交谈的角色。现在她感觉舒适地与人们交谈，从杂货店到医生和护士。

她的母亲的社会网络已经通过她的参与得到很大的改善。特别地，她作为一个新角色与另一个参与者见面。他们对亲近地邻居和有孩子的家庭的期望是接近在年龄。她的女儿将通过继续进行到最低水平的前半段课程和现在将与她的朋友和来自家庭计划的社区教师一起。

对subscribe to Illinois Literacy, call 217-785-6921 or 800-665-5576 (Illinois only). #3.

2019 Literacy Program statistics — (Cont. from pg. 2)

This mother’s social network has expanded greatly through her participation in the program. In particular, she developed a close friendship with another parent in the program. They have managed to successfully participate in the program, but there is no age limit on participating. As

it offers a chance to provide training to their fellow inmates. To participate in the program, prospective learners must score below the ninth-grade level in reading, writing and/or math, or speak English below the SFL 7.

Workplace Skills Enhancement
- 206 employees received instruction
- 53 percent of employees instructed were female
- Average age of an employee was 42
- 62 percent of employees studied ESL

Success Story: LSG Sky Chefs, Des Plaines; Oakton Community College, Skokie

LSG Sky Chefs is one of the world’s largest airline catering companies that also supports railway operators, retailers and lounge management offering a wide assortment of food solutions from traditional catering to frozen meals and packaged snacks. LSG employs more than 1,000 employees in the Des Plaines facility that caters over 600 daily domestic and international flights at O’Hare International Airport. Notable customers include United, Virgin America, Alaska, COPA, Frontier and Spirit airlines. The partnership with Oakton Community College provided an opportunity for LSG to offer ESL classes to non-English speaking employees to improve their English ability of these employees so they could better communicate with supervisors as well as native English-speaking peers. It was also important for the employees to learn safety practices and be able to demonstrate these practices in case of an emergency. LSG reports that the classes and training sessions have given confidence to the participants, while providing many of them with their first opportunity to attend ESL classes even though they have lived and worked in the United States for a number of years. Participants report that they are speaking English more frequently at work, as well as outside of work in their everyday lives. The company believes that investing in the employees will ultimately save the company money as it will lead to increased job satisfaction and higher employee retention, benefiting both the company and its workers.

Correctional Facilities
Offering literacy tutoring in correctional facilities opens the door to many educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals. For some, it gives a Second Language instruction in local correctional facilities; five programs provided literacy instruction at state facilities; and one program worked with one federal facility.

Adult Literacy, Public Library Partnerships
Public libraries throughout Illinois played an important role in educating adult learners. Literacy programs rely on libraries for a full array of library services, and many libraries are providing services to more than one literacy program. In fiscal year 19, libraries and literacy programs worked together to achieve the following results:

- 55 adult literacy programs assisted 2,435 adult learners in obtaining library cards
- 70 libraries provided overhead support for Illinois State Library funded literacy projects
- 184 libraries offered special collections for adult learners
- 386 libraries provided tutoring space for literacy volunteers to work with adult learners
- 398 libraries provided recruitment and referral of adult learners to literacy programs around the state

To subscribe to Illinois Literacy, call 217-785-6921 or 800-665-5576 (Illinois only). #3.
Fiscal year 2019 Literacy Program statistics and success stories

Fiscal year 2019 final reports submitted by programs funded through the Illinois State Library Literacy office revealed the following statistics. Success stories from each program follow.

**Adult Volunteer Literacy**
- 11,418 adult learners served
- Average age of an adult learner was 41
- 63 percent of adult learners were studying English as a Second Language (ESL)

**Correctional Facilities**
- 63 citizens from local communities tutored in correctional facilities

**Penny Severns Family Literacy**
- 657 adult learners served
- 92 percent of the adults were female
- 85 percent were adult learners studying ESL
- Average age of an adult learner was 33
- 428 participants obtained a library card
- 897 children served
- Average age of children served was 6

**Success Story: Chinese Mutual Aid Association, Chicago**
A young couple with a two-year-old daughter moved from India to the United States in 2018, and soon after their arrival, the mother enrolled in the family literacy program. Over the program year, Chinese Mutual Aid Association’s Family Literacy Program helped this young mother increase her confidence in speaking English, grow her social network and connect her to professional development opportunities.

As statistics show, the average age of adult learners participating in the Secretary of State Illinois State Library Adult Volunteer Literacy Program is 41. Learners must be at least 17 to participate in the program, but there is no age limit on participating. As the adage goes, “you are never too old to learn,” and you are also never too old to get your first library card.

Cynthia Smith is 70 and her friend Shirley Rogers is 55, and they both recently received their very first library card. They are participants in the Family Legacy Foundation’s Adult Volunteer Literacy Program and visited the Chicago Public Library’s Avalon Branch as part of the tutoring program. After receiving their cards, the ladies toured the facility and learned about programs at the library. They were both very excited to be able to check out books and CDs, and they look forward to exploring the world through the library.

“These two women really show that it is never too late in life to learn new things and improve oneself through education,” says Taneesha Rolland, executive director of the Family Legacy Foundation. “The photograph of the two with their very first library card really brightened my day.”

**Success Story: STAR Literacy Program, Regional Office of Education #17 — DeWitt/Livingston/Lemont/Logan/McLean counties, Bloomington**
A family recently immigrated to the United States from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and like many immigrants, they were finding subsidized childcare so they could each work and attend tutoring. The tutors incorporated subject matter into the tutoring sessions that would have an immediate impact on their daily lives. Soon, they were able to attend medical appointments without interpreters, communicate with the children’s teachers, and participate in events at the public library.

The impact of the program has touched the entire family as both parents have obtained better jobs, with the mother working as a Certified Nursing Assistant at a local hospital. They have obtained library cards for themselves and their children and frequently use the resources of the library. Both parents continue to work with their tutors to improve their future and the future of their family.

**Penni Severns Family Literacy**
- 657 adult learners served
- 92 percent of the adults were female
- 85 percent were adult learners studying ESL
- Average age of an adult learner was 33
- 428 participants obtained a library card
- 897 children served
- Average age of children served was 6

**Success Story: Chinese Mutual Aid Association, Chicago**
A young couple with a two-year-old daughter moved from India to the United States in 2018, and soon after their arrival, the mother enrolled in the family literacy program. Over the program year, Chinese Mutual Aid Association’s Family Literacy Program helped this young mother increase her confidence in speaking English, grow her social network and connect her to professional development opportunities.

As statistics show, the average age of adult learners participating in the Secretary of State Illinois State Library Adult Volunteer Literacy Program is 41. Learners must be at least 17 to participate in the program, but there is no age limit on participating. As the adage goes, “you are never too old to learn,” and you are also never too old to get your first library card.

Cynthia Smith is 70 and her friend Shirley Rogers is 55, and they both recently received their very first library card. They are participants in the Family Legacy Foundation’s Adult Volunteer Literacy Program and visited the Chicago Public Library’s Avalon Branch as part of the tutoring program. After receiving their cards, the ladies toured the facility and learned about programs at the library. They were both very excited to be able to check out books and CDs, and they look forward to exploring the world through the library.

“These two women really show that it is never too late in life to learn new things and improve oneself through education,” says Taneesha Rolland, executive director of the Family Legacy Foundation. “The photograph of the two with their very first library card really brightened my day.”

**Success Story: STAR Literacy Program, Regional Office of Education #17 — DeWitt/Livingston/Lemont/Logan/McLean counties, Bloomington**
A family recently immigrated to the United States from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and like many immigrants, they were finding subsidized childcare so they could each work and attend tutoring. The tutors incorporated subject matter into the tutoring sessions that would have an immediate impact on their daily lives. Soon, they were able to attend medical appointments without interpreters, communicate with the children’s teachers, and participate in events at the public library.

The impact of the program has touched the entire family as both parents have obtained better jobs, with the mother working as a Certified Nursing Assistant at a local hospital. They have obtained library cards for themselves and their children and frequently use the resources of the library. Both parents continue to work with their tutors to improve their future and the future of their family.

**Penni Severns Family Literacy**
- 657 adult learners served
- 92 percent of the adults were female
- 85 percent were adult learners studying ESL
- Average age of an adult learner was 33
- 428 participants obtained a library card
- 897 children served
- Average age of children served was 6

**Success Story: Chinese Mutual Aid Association, Chicago**
A young couple with a two-year-old daughter moved from India to the United States in 2018, and soon after their arrival, the mother enrolled in the family literacy program. Over the program year, Chinese Mutual Aid Association’s Family Literacy Program helped this young mother increase her confidence in speaking English, grow her social network and connect her to professional development opportunities.

As statistics show, the average age of adult learners participating in the Secretary of State Illinois State Library Adult Volunteer Literacy Program is 41. Learners must be at least 17 to participate in the program, but there is no age limit on participating. As the adage goes, “you are never too old to learn,” and you are also never too old to get your first library card.

Cynthia Smith is 70 and her friend Shirley Rogers is 55, and they both recently received their very first library card. They are participants in the Family Legacy Foundation’s Adult Volunteer Literacy Program and visited the Chicago Public Library’s Avalon Branch as part of the tutoring program. After receiving their cards, the ladies toured the facility and learned about programs at the library. They were both very excited to be able to check out books and CDs, and they look forward to exploring the world through the library.

“These two women really show that it is never too late in life to learn new things and improve oneself through education,” says Taneesha Rolland, executive director of the Family Legacy Foundation. “The photograph of the two with their very first library card really brightened my day.”
Resources for adult literacy practitioners

The Secretary of State Illinois State Library Literacy office has formulated a listing of resources for adult literacy program staff members who are responsible for developing, planning and implementing volunteer-delivered literacy services for adult learners, as well as those invested in family literacy programming, or staffs collaborating with businesses to educate their employees. The list is available online, organized by theme and regularly updated with new resources. The following content was recently added to the resource list.

http://bossmall.org/ — Too Small to Fail is an initiative of the Clinton Foundation that fosters public awareness and action campaigns to promote the importance of early brain and language development and to empower parents with the tools to talk, read and sing with their young children from birth. Through partnerships with public, private and faith-based entities and leaders, Too Small to Fail is attempting to meet parents where they are to help them prepare their children for success in school and beyond. The goal of the initiative is to create meaningful interactions anywhere, anytime.

http://learntoearn toolkit.org/ — The National Center for Families Learning offers the Learn to Earn Tool Kit to assist students in building learning skills to prepare them for the workforce that includes 10 topic areas of learning. The 10 areas are critical thinking, diversity, English language, information technology application, oral communication, professionalism, reading comprehension, social responsibility, teamwork, and written communication. Specific lessons in each topic area will help students explore career possibilities and learn new vocabulary in context.

https://www.tap-illinois.org/ — The Autism Program (TAP) of Illinois is the largest, comprehensive statewide program in the country dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families. TAP provides a variety of resources and services and collaborates with local agencies to offer services that respond to the unique needs of different communities across Illinois.

The online literacy resource list can be accessed at https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/literacy/pdfs/literacy_resource_list.pdf.

ON THE HORIZON


March 11-13 – Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association Conference, Springfield, IL, https://www.iaces.net/


April 1-4 – National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Chicago, IL, https://www.nctm.org/100/

April 5-8 – Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE), Baltimore, MD, https://coabe.org/conference-2020/

April 18 – On The Road to Literacy Conference, Chicago, IL, http://www.totalliteracy.org/home.aspx


April 19-25 – National Volunteer Week, https://www2.pointsoflight.org/nvww

More literacy event information is available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/depart ments/library/literacy/home.html (click Calendar of Literacy Events).

Secretary White celebrates Nuestro Retrado

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White joined over 300 adult learners and literacy agency representatives at the 26th annual Nuestro Retrado (Our Portrait) celebration in Chicago. The annual celebration hosted by El Consejo Hispano de Alfabetizacion (The Hispanic Literacy Coalition) recognizes the accomplishments of adult learners through their personal stories expressed in essays, pictures, dance recitals and singing.

“It is important to celebrate the achievements of adult learners at events like Nuestro Retrado,” White said. “These adults have overcome numerous obstacles on their educational journey and deserve recognition for their hard earned accomplishments.”

“Secretary White has been a long-time advocate and supporter of adult education literacy programs, and we are both lucky and thankful for his support,” said Susana Ortiz, adult volunteer literacy coordinator at Erie Neighborhood House. “Participants were so excited to be able to meet with the Secretary and showcase their successes along with the incredible educational strides they have accomplished.”

The Hispanic Literacy Coalition is comprised of 12 agencies in Chicago that provide adult literacy services. The coalition includes Centro Romero, Corazon a Corazon, Enlace Chicago, Erie Neighborhood House, LUC Center for Literacy/FAST Services, Instituto del Progreso Latino, Literacy Works, Poder Learning Center, St. Joseph Services, Telpochcalli Community Education Project, The Learning Center/House of Connections, and Universidad Popular.