As we reflect on the past fiscal year, two words come to mind: deep collaboration. In 2018, CCLC joined forces with nearly 50 organizations to help thousands of Chicagoans with low literacy and skills move onto a career pathway and thrive in their communities.

Successful partnerships require shared vision, first and foremost. They also require trust and a melding of strengths. Here are just a few of the ways we combined resources, developed creative solutions, and provided hands-on support:

- Collaboratively staffed a position at the Near West American Job Center (AJC) in Pilsen that connects individuals to both adult education and workforce opportunities.
- Teamed up with adult education organizations to offer tours of community health centers to help increase health literacy and connect families to health care providers.
- Worked with the Chicago’s Office of the City Clerk to host CityKey printing sessions, so that as many people as possible could obtain the unique municipal identification card.
- Led technology assessments and formed a partnership among 10 programs to create CCLC’s Digital Literacy Advisory Board (DLAB), with a shared vision to improve communities by empowering Chicagoans through digital literacy.

In the pages that follow, you can read more about these initiatives and other ways we are providing holistic solutions in collaboration with so many of you.

We are very grateful for your personal investment in the Coalition. More importantly, we’re grateful for your investment in individuals who struggle to navigate life — but who, thanks to you, are better equipped to succeed today than they were a year ago.

We look forward to continuing our collaborations in 2019!

Best regards,

Mary Kay Devine
CCLC Board President
Becky Raymond
CCLC Executive Director
**FINANCIALS**

**REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORTS**
- Individual contributions: $3,854.00
- Foundation and trust grants: $452,987.00
- Interest revenue: 55.00
- Service fees: $65,050.00
- Special events: $18,869.00

**TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORTS** $540,815.00

**EXPENSES**
- Program services: $367,897.00
- Support services:
  - Management and general: $80,712.00
  - Fundraising: $26,778.00

**TOTAL EXPENSES** $475,387.00

**Change in net assets** $65,428.00

**Net assets:**
- **BEGINNING OF THE YEAR** $269,969.00
- **END OF YEAR** $335,397.00

Thank you to everyone that continues to support our mission and work.
A full list of donors can be found at: www.chicagocitywideliteracy.org/oursupporters
A gap persists between adult education and workforce training opportunities—preventing learners from taking full advantage of what is available to them.

To bridge this gap, the Coalition in 2018 began staffing a position to represent adult education at the Near West American Job Center (AJC) in Pilsen.

Known as the Career Pathways Navigator, the position focuses on two-way connections between adult education and the AJC: connecting adults who enter the AJC to adult education services and ensuring that adult education students are connected to the services at the AJC.

The success of this initiative relies on collaboration with a group of thirteen Adult Education providers, funded by Illinois Community College Board under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

**2018 HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The Career Navigator conducted more than two dozen site visits among adult education providers to build relationships and share information about the AJC.
- Nearly 100 adult learners were referred from the AJC to adult education providers for programs such as English as a Second Language (ESL) and High School Equivalency (HSE).
- Adult education providers were linked to partner agencies for bridge programs on topics like financial literacy, WIOA eligibility, and working in Information Technology (IT).

“The Career Navigator’s impact over the last year has been impressive. His ability to connect agencies and providers and great spirit and enthusiasm with his work make him a valued member of the partnership.”

RUBY CAMACHO
Associate Director,
Grants & Administration,
UIC Center for Literacy
Director, AmeriCorps Project

ADULT EDUCATION PARTNERS

A Safe Haven
Daley College
Greater West Town Project
Instituto del Pregreso Latino
Literacy Chicago
Malcolm X College
National Able
PODER/English Works
Pui Tak Center
Safer Foundation
St. Augustine College
UIC/FAST
Universidad Popular
Adults with low literacy skills are more likely to report having fair-to-poor health than those with higher proficiency, even when accounting for education attainment and other background characteristics. Individuals with low literacy also have healthcare costs four times higher than those with proficient literacy skills.

To address these issues, the Coalition’s Health Literacy Project brought together adult education providers at eight community-based organizations with the goal of increasing health literacy for students. A unique implementation plan enables each adult education partner to have a teaching style that is most effective for the populations they serve.

Program modules include: Diabetes; Heart Disease; Mental Wellness; Obesity; Personal Care; and Talking to Your Doctor. An additional module is a Tour of a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center (FQHC), to help participants gain familiarity with their local healthcare resources.

**ADULT EDUCATION PARTNERS**
- Centro Romero
- Erie Neighborhood House
- Greater West Town Project
- Heartland Human Care Services
- Howard Area Community Center
- Indo American Center
- Safer Foundation
- The Learning Center

**PARTNER FQHCS**
- Erie Family Health Center
- Heartland Health Center
- Lawndale Christian Health Center
- St. Anthony’s Hospital
- UIC Miles Square Health Center

**2018 HIGHLIGHTS:**
- A total of 309 adult learners participated in the project in 2018.
- There were significant knowledge changes around mental health issues. Participants learned to identify primary warning signs of a mental health disorder — improving 22% through the course.
- The project provided adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and mental health first aid training to providers.

“Through the Health Literacy Project, we are given the freedom to present necessary health information in a fun and motivating method to prevent illnesses that afflict our communities. Our students are excited to learn about a variety of health topics and that creates engagement — allowing them to contribute to the conversation, share their stories, and learn from one another. These modules encourage students to think differently about their health and develop healthy choices.”

**MIRIAM GONZALEZ, Program Coordinator, The Learning Center**
As one of three community-based organizations selected to roll out the CityKey municipal ID program through Chicago’s neighborhoods, the Coalition partnered with adult education providers to make it easier for learners to access many of the great things our city has to offer.

Spearheaded by Chicago’s Office of the City Clerk, the CityKey serves as a three-in-one valid government ID, Ventra card, and Chicago Public Library card that provides discounts at local restaurants, museums and shops.

“For Chicago’s adult learners, this is an exciting development, as it reduces barriers not only to get a valid government ID but also to create access to Chicago Public Library’s vast network of libraries and online resources,” Chicago City Clerk Anna Valencia wrote in a guest blog for the Coalition. “This card will be available to all Chicago residents regardless of prison record, gender designation or housing or immigration status.”

2018 HIGHLIGHTS:

- More than 12,000 adult learners obtained CityKey cards through the Coalition.
- The Coalition mobilized and subcontracted with 20 partners to implement printing session.

“At a time when many of our clients and community members are nervous about their place in the U.S. and in Chicago, the CityKey program offers a concrete example of just how integral they are to our society. They finally had a way to identify themselves as residents of the city of Chicago, which is something many of our clients have never had the opportunity to do before. We are so grateful to CCLC and the City Clerk. You have given our community a way to identify themselves, so that they know, definitively, what has always been true: they are important and valued members of our city and we recognize them.”

KATIE MARANZANA, Director of Adult Education Centro Romero
SHARED VISION: TECHNOLOGY

In today’s digital world, digital literacy is a must in order to succeed in the workforce and navigate everything from retail shopping to financial services.

In the spring 2018, the Coalition led technology assessments of local adult education providers and used the findings to spearhead partnership among 10 programs to create CCLC’s Digital Literacy Advisory Board (DLAB). The vision of DLAB is to improve communities by empowering Chicagoans through digital literacy. Together, advisory board members are facilitating cohesion of digital education efforts and curating resources and services.

In addition, the Coalition is proud to be a participant in the Illinois Digital Learning Lab. CCLC Program Director Dena Giacometti serves as a subject matter expert for the Lab, guiding adult education practitioners as they experiment with new digital tools and implement best practices that meet the needs of their students.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS:

• DLAB members connected adult participants to apps that enable them to increase their learning time outside of the classroom.

• DLAB members attended professional development sessions at Google to learn how to help learners use Google’s G-Suite platform for learning and work.

• Through DLAB’s peer-to-peer learning platform, members shared best practices.

“The addition of CCLC’s technology initiatives have provided our students with the opportunity to learn how to navigate the digital literacy requirements of the modern work environment. Greater West Town Training Partnership has had the opportunity to serve individuals with very low digital literacy levels due to barriers including incarceration, homelessness, English language learning, and previously unmet educational needs; while at the same time providing highly challenging digital literacy learning to participants entering with more advanced experience. This program, along with participation in the DLAB, has given us another way to support our participants in discovering and curating digital content specific to industry needs.”

AGUSTIN JARAMILLO, GWTP S&R Technical Instructor, Greater West Town Training Partnership (GWTP), Vocational Training Program

DLAB MEMBERS

Centers for New Horizons
Centro Romero
Chicago Public Library
City Colleges of Chicago
CrowdEd Learning
Designers for Learning
Greater West Town Project
Heartland Human Care Services
Literacy Chicago
Literacy Volunteers of Illinois
Literacy Works
National Able
UIC Center for Literacy
OUR MISSION

The Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition helps Chicago’s Adult Education organizations secure resources and training so that underserved adult learners can become economically successful, and reframes adult basic education as a critical public policy issue.

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