Hello!

Thank you for your on-going support of the Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition. We are grateful to everyone who invested in our work, collaborated on our efforts, and trusted our mission. With you, we were able to accomplish our goals this year, despite the uncertain and vulnerable times in our state.

At the Coalition, we believe that adults with low skills can move out of poverty when education and workforce development programs are aligned to create a Career Pathway framework. This belief drives all of our work. To that end, we spent the past year researching the equity of adult education funding distributions. As you’ll read in this report, our study found that nearly 70% of adult education learners do not meet the eligibility requirements of half of the Career Pathways programs currently available. This means that the majority of the 500,000 Chicagoans with low skills are unable to access the services they need to move along a Career Pathway and into family-sustaining wages.

To address this gap, the Coalition convened 40 local and national adult education experts to learn about the research findings and best practices in Career Pathway programming. Moving forward, the Coalition will continue to bring together experts to create innovative solutions so that adult learners can move forward regardless of where they begin their journey along the pathway.

Additionally, the Coalition galvanized adult education providers and program participants to advocate for resources and to highlight the benefits and effectiveness of adult education. Throughout the course of the year, the Coalition led the charge of securing a state budget by leading a rally, organizing a trip to Springfield and through facilitating advocacy trainings.

In the past year, we have invested $75,000 into our member organizations through both our health and digital literacy programs. Our goal is to help programs retain learners so that they can move onto the next step on their Career Pathway.

Again, we are very excited to share this report with you. We appreciate you as an important partner in our work, and we look forward to deepening our engagement with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Mary Kay Devine
Board President

Becky Raymond
Executive Director

Leadership

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Dena Giacometti, Program Manager
Jazmine Salas, Communications Associate
Alex Ziskind, Program Manager

Board and Staff attending the 2017 Beyond Books Awards Ceremony: Back row: Daniel Faichney, Susie Karwowski, Lawrence Blakley, Jessica Goble, Kathy Allison, Carmen Goble, Gerardo Sandoval
Front row: Jazmine Salas, Lisbeth Goble, Mary Kay Devine, Becky Raymond, Oswaldo Alvarez, Cyndi Elliott, Alex Ziskind
Shaping the Career Pathways Agenda

Building a research-based and community-informed Career Pathways system.

**Key Research Findings**

Most programs have a minimum test score requirement, keeping adults with low scores from accessing services.

In order for adults with low skills to move onto career pathways, viable entry points need to be created.

Nearly 70% of students do not meet minimum requirements.

Over 50% of programs have these requirements.

**Data-to-Action Summit**

May 1, 2017

The Coalition presented preliminary research findings on how adults with skills gaps access Career Pathway programs to a group of key leaders in the field. Participants also developed policy recommendations to improve services.

Career Pathways Programming for Lower-Skilled Adults and Immigrants: A Comparative Analysis of Adult Education Providers in High-Need Cities is a researcher-practitioner partnership between researchers at the Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy at Penn State University and practitioners at the Coalition, the Houston Center for Literacy, and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Funded by the Institute of Education Sciences, the project came to an end during the 2016 fiscal year.

Presented project findings at 3 Adult Education Conferences and 1 Summit

National Experts and Civic Leaders Attended

Launched the Career Pathways Advisory Council

Supporting White Paper Released May 2017

**Leading the Charge for a State Budget**

Our advocacy work generated momentum in the field that spurred providers and their students to take action.

**Additional Key Advocacy Milestones**

- The Coalition convened 7 advocacy meetings featuring providers and other stakeholders.
- The Coalition trained 35 adult learners and providers on effective advocacy storytelling through two workshops.

The Coalition mobilized 30 adult learners and agency staff mobilized to Springfield for the Illinois Adult and Continuing Education Association’s Lobby Day

Nearly 70% of students do not meet minimum requirements.

Over 50% of programs have these requirements.
Closing the Digital Divide

Through our Adult Literacy and Technology Integration Project (ALTIP), the Coalition awarded stipends that allowed programs to expand their digital literacy curriculum.

The Coalition invested $40,000 in Community Based Organizations that served 1,048 Adult Learners.

According to one instructor, “75% of ALTIP participants that received classroom instruction with technology integration demonstrated at least one national reporting system gain. This is nearly twice the rate for adult education program as a whole.”

86% of learners reported the program increased their confidence to use technology.

85% of learners stated that the technology aided them in understanding their future education and employment path.

86% of instructors said greater use of technology had a positive impact on student learning outcomes in reading.”

Participating Organizations: B.E.S.T. Adult Volunteer Literacy Program • D & H Literacy Center • Howard Area Community Center • Indo-American Center • The Learning Center Onward Neighborhood House • PODER • Tolton Center

*Data taken from a survey of 200 adult learners that participated in the 2016-2017 program

Empowering Adults to Take Ownership of their Health

The Empowerment-Based Health Literacy Program is building healthy communities by providing health education and connecting families to health care providers.

The Coalition invested $35,000 in Community Based Organizations that linked 275 Adult Learners to 5 Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Participant Demographics

By the end of the program,

81% of learners could identify a place to go if sick or seeking medical advice.

75% of learners could successfully identify one symptom of diabetes.

79% of learners could successfully identify one symptom of heart disease.

The adult educators reported that many students expressed interests in gaining further knowledge on health related topics, and some even reported an increase in enrollment in their health centers.

One adult learner was diagnosed with diabetes prior to the program. After completing the lessons, he changed his diet and exercise routine. He later reported no longer needing to use insulin or other diabetic medication.

Participating Adult Education Organizations: Centro Romero Chicago Commons • Erie Neighborhood House Greater West Town Community Development Project • Howard Area Community Center • The Learning Center • United for Better Living

Partnering Health Centers: ACCESS Community Health Network • Alivio Medical Center • Heartland Health Centers • Erie Health Center • Saint Anthony’s Hospital

*Data taken from a survey of 200 adult learners that participated in the 2016-2017 program
Revenues and Other Support

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Individual contributions</td>
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<td>Foundation and trust grants</td>
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<td>Release from restrictions</td>
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Expenses

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<td>Support services</td>
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<td>General fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
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Donors

**$100,000 - $50,000**

- Chicago Tribune Charities
- Holiday Campaign, a McCormick Foundation Fund
- JPMorgan Chase
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- The Chicago Community Trust

**$49,999 - $1,000**

- Penn State University Polk Bros. Foundation
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**$999 and below**

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- James Flamen
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- Joseph Tully
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- Judy Cook
- Julie Robertson
- Kane County Cougars
- Kaneesha Craig
- Karen Mohner
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- Vera Bradley
- Vivian Alvarez
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- William Adams
- Yolane Jean
- Zed 451
"SOLIY provided the ability to rewire our computer lab and provide health literacy classes to our students. These two programs, along with our core curriculum, have allowed the Learning Center to provide a holistic approach to our education model."

- Angélica Saezola, Executive Director
The Learning Center

"Students talked about using the techniques to build their self-esteem and reaching out to friends who might need help. My students haven't seen any health care at all, so this program is invaluable for the community."

- Martha Hernandez, ESL Instructor
The Triton Center

"COOL is always ready to stand up for our community. They make sure that our voices are heard within the government."

- Daniel Lobato, Executive Director
PODER

"We didn't have any computers. We were just in books. Once [the Coalition] invited us to a workshop and we participated in ALTIP, we were able to bring technology to the agency."

- Kathy Girard, Executive Director
United For Better Living

http://www.chicagocitywidelliteracy.org

chicagoliteracy
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