

LITERACY LIFTS NEW YORK!

The Adult Literacy Education (ALE) funding stream provides community-based adult education services across New York State. Many of the positive outcomes we see ALE participants achieve occur because ALE providers are trusted, local nonprofits with strong ties to their community, culturally competent staff, and wrap-around support services.

OUR ASK: Invest \$25 million in ALE.

The Problem: Over **3.4 million** adults in NYS lack English language proficiency or basic literacy and numeracy skills. Yet, funding for adult literacy is so inadequate that **fewer than 4%** of these adults are able to secure seats in publicly funded classes in any given year.

The Solution: Investing in ALE is the easiest way for the State to support high-quality, community based adult literacy. Research shows that educated parents raise children who are more likely to succeed in life—and less likely to end up in poverty or prison.

FY 2022 RECOMMENDATION:

NYCCAL calls on New York State to triple ALE funding from \$7.8m to \$25 million in FY22 to provide students and program staff with the wrap-around support they need to succeed.

Remote Literacy Classes are Essential!

Students in adult education programs have been hit hard by the pandemic not only because many are excluded from COVID-19 relief but also because the majority work on New York's front lines as essential workers. Since ALE providers shifted their lessons online to protect the health of their community members, these programs continue to be a lifeline for those students whose lives have been most disrupted by the pandemic.

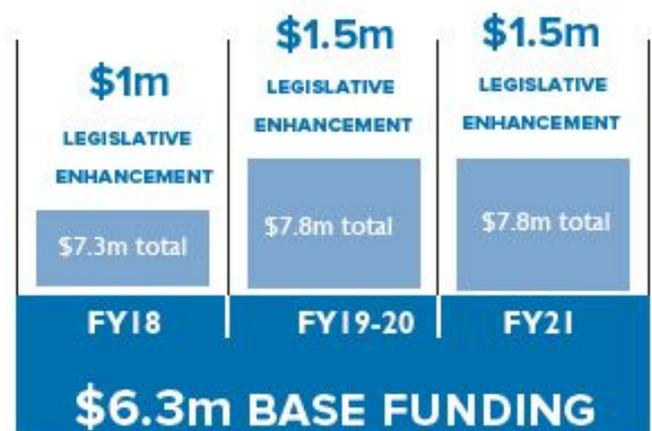


**Adult education is lifting people up.
Invest in it. Don't shortchange it.**

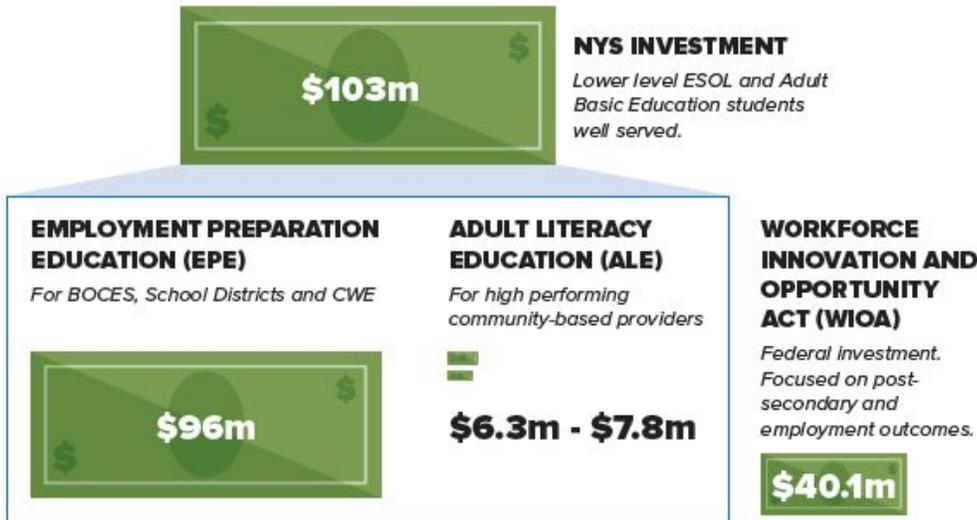
ADULT LITERACY LANDSCAPE (NYS)

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, contribute to the economy, and uplift our communities. However, demand for adult education far exceeds the current investment -- the majority of NYers in need of literacy are unable to access ALE classes.

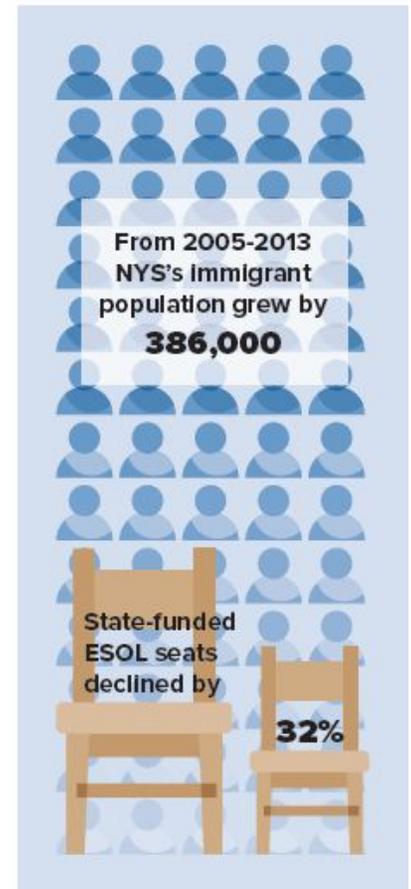
ALE FUNDING HISTORY



ADULT EDUCATION INVESTMENT IN NEW YORK STATE



THE NEED FOR ADULT EDUCATION FUNDING



INCREASED NYS INVESTMENT IN ADULT EDUCATION IS CRITICAL

In 2020, only **10%** of jobs were available to those without a high school credential.

63% of jobs required some type of training or education beyond high school.

Immigrants who are English language proficient earn

13% - 24% more

than immigrants who are not.

Lifetime benefit for each NYC resident who earns a high school diploma or its equivalent (HSE) in terms of increased tax contributions and decreased use of public benefits



ADULT EDUCATION: INVEST IN IT. DON'T SHORTCHANGE IT.

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.

#LiteracyLiftsNY

The New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy (NYCCAL) is composed of adult literacy teachers, managers, students, and allies from community-based organizations, CUNY campuses, and library programs across NYC. 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.

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