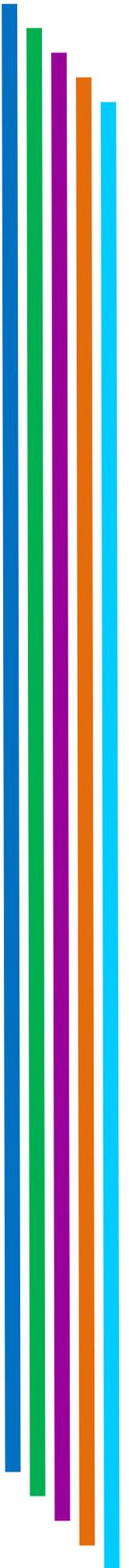
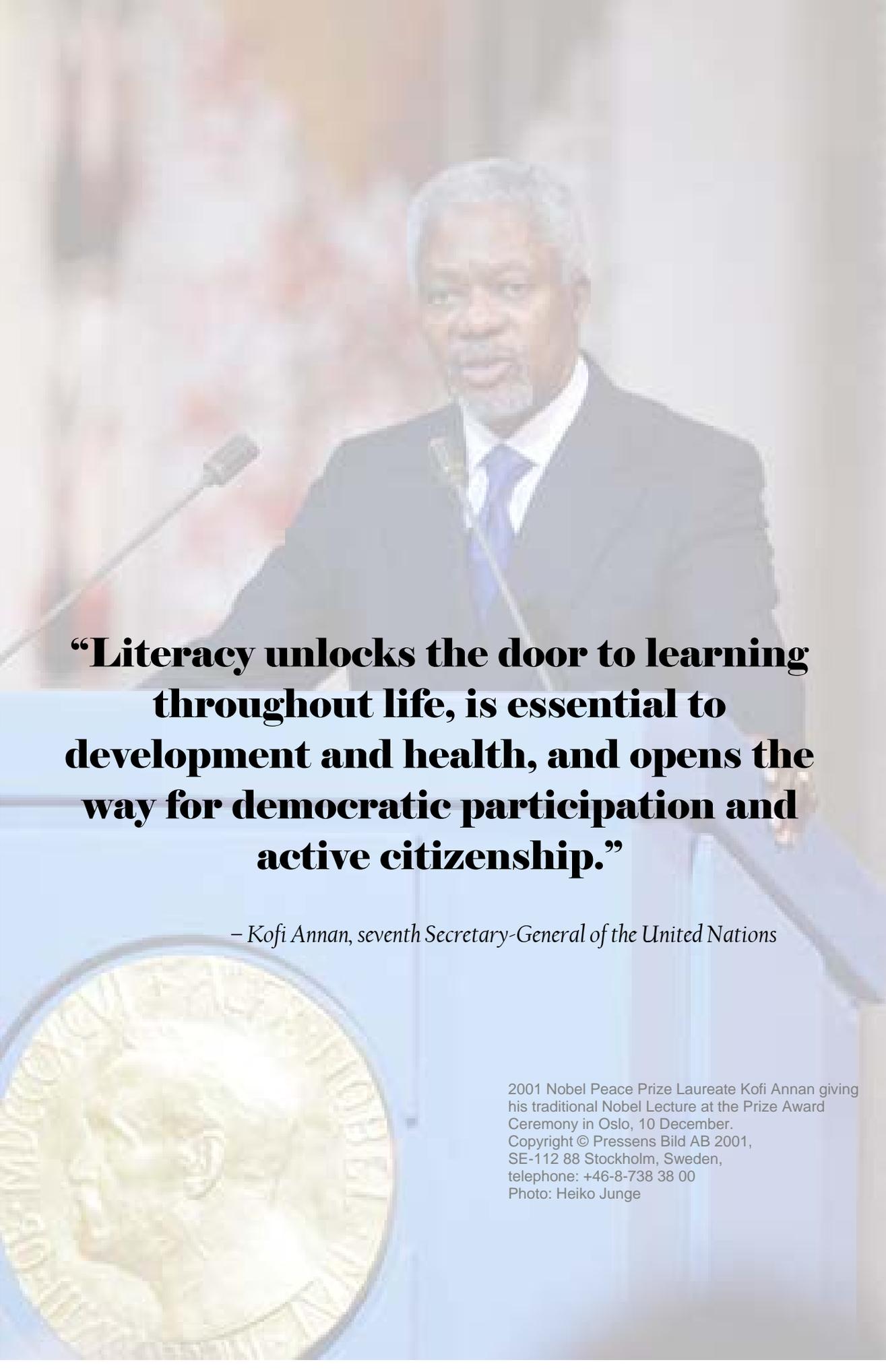


Report to the Legislature on the California Library Literacy & English Acquisition Services Program



Submitted by
Greg Lucas
California State Librarian
July 2016



A photograph of Kofi Annan, the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a blue tie. The background is blurred, showing a large audience. A large, semi-transparent blue rectangle is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing text and a Nobel Prize medal.

“Literacy unlocks the door to learning throughout life, is essential to development and health, and opens the way for democratic participation and active citizenship.”

– Kofi Annan, seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations

A close-up of a gold Nobel Prize medal, showing the profile of Alfred Nobel and the text 'ALFRED NOBEL' and 'NORDBÄCKEN' around the edge.

2001 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Kofi Annan giving his traditional Nobel Lecture at the Prize Award Ceremony in Oslo, 10 December.
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REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE CALIFORNIA LIBRARY LITERACY AND ENGLISH ACQUISITION SERVICES PROGRAM OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown, Jr., Governor

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
Greg Lucas, California State Librarian

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE CALIFORNIA LIBRARY LITERACY SERVICES
The report covers fiscal year 2014-15. This report was prepared pursuant to California State Education Code (Title 1, Division 1, Part 11, Chapter 4.6., Sections 18880-18883).

Additional copies of this report can be obtained from:

California State Library
California Library Literacy Services
900 N Street, 4th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-5217

Or online at <http://libraryliteracy.org/>

Executive Summary

Several million adults in California are unable to fully participate in the social, political and economic life of our state because they cannot read or write English. Improved literacy skills open the door to better employment opportunities, self-education, and the joys of reading.

For the past 30 years, the state has helped open that door for nearly a quarter of a million adult learners through the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) program. CLLS supports Californians by providing services to low-literacy adults and their families through California public libraries.

In addition to helping adults learn to read and write, literacy programs are providing assistance with other necessary life skill needs by teaching digital and health literacy, delivering job skill training, and helping adults obtain their high school diplomas and U.S. citizenship. CLLS programs provide a gateway to success for many in their communities.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, 18,388 adult Californians participating in CLLS improved their reading skills with the help of close to 10,000 volunteers.



Figure 1: Marilyn and Rejoyce from Santa Clara City Public Library

Gov. Brown added \$1 million in one-time funds in fiscal year 2014/2015, enabling a baseline increase of 50% to each local program. Gov. Brown then restored \$2 million to the program in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, demonstrating the priority this state puts on an informed and educated California.

The total number of locations providing services in fiscal year 2014/15 is 805, and that number will grow in 2015/2016 due to the increase in committed state funding and the ability to add new programs for the first time in four years.

Literacy services provide an excellent return on investment, as participating programs contribute local funds to support literacy effects – in fiscal year local contributions totaled \$16,846,187, (\$4.41 for each state dollar spent).



Figure 2: Rosemary and Oxana from Contra Costa County Library

Background/Impact

“More than 36 million adults in the United States cannot read, write or do basic math above a third grade level.”

([ProLiteracy](#))

Low literacy represents more than \$225 billion each year nationwide in non-productivity costs in the workforce and loss of tax revenue due to unemployment. Some 70% of state prison inmates have low literacy skills. The lower a person’s reading level, the more likely they are to live in poverty.

The necessity of being literate has far reaching implications.

According to the [California Department of Education](#), “More than 4 million California adults cannot read beyond the third grade level. This means they cannot read voting ballots, medication instructions, or bedtime stories to their children. Children of low-literacy parents are more likely to become low-literacy themselves.”

“In order to stay healthy, individuals must know how to read the labels on food and medicine, locate the nearest health center, report symptoms to health professionals, understand insurance paperwork, and pay medical bills.” ([Center for Health Care Strategies](#))

Our interest is in helping learners meet their goals for improving their basic skills, not solely in helping them achieve increased test scores or grade levels.

- California Library Literacy Services

CLLS Program/How it Works

Through CLLS, adult learners are provided one-on-one or small group instruction by trained volunteer tutors based on each individual’s pace and goals. CLLS targets English speaking adults who struggle with basic reading and writing skills. Services are provided confidentially in the non-threatening library environment – crucial qualities in attracting hard-to-reach adults who don’t have the skill and/or comfort level to attend and succeed in traditional classroom-based programs.

Outreach to adults is the foundation of library literacy services because reaching the adult is the critical first step in addressing the literacy needs of the entire family.

- California Library Literacy Services

Many programs also provide a family literacy component – adult learners with children under age 5 in their life are provided additional instruction in reading to children, selecting age appropriate children’s books, and using activities such as songs, finger plays, and word games designed to promote the enjoyment of reading. This additional instruction ensures that these children of low literate adults are better prepared to start school, reducing

the risk of having their own struggles with literacy, as according to the National Institute of Health, a mother’s level of reading skill is the greatest determinant of her children’s academic success.

The National Research Council defines adult literacy learners in the United States as:

1. Middle-aged and older U.S.-born high school graduates who can no longer keep up with the reading, writing, and technology demands of their jobs;
2. Adolescents and adults who dropped out of school;
3. Adults who had disabilities that were not fully accommodated in school;
4. Recent immigrants who have little education in their native languages;
5. Highly educated immigrants who are literate in their native language but need to learn to read and write in English; and
6. Underprepared students in college.

These diverse groups of people have unique situations and challenges, skill sets and learning needs, making the CLLS program of providing one-on-one instruction tailored to an individual's specific goals an ideal learning environment.



30th Anniversary

California Library Literacy Services celebrated 30 years of changing lives of low-literate adults

and their families. Since its inception, California's Library Literacy Services has helped nearly a quarter of a million Californians learn to read and write.

To mark the 30th anniversary milestone, the state launched a month-long awareness campaign in September 2014 titled "Together, California Reads" to encourage communities to support the efforts of their local public libraries in raising adult literacy rates statewide.



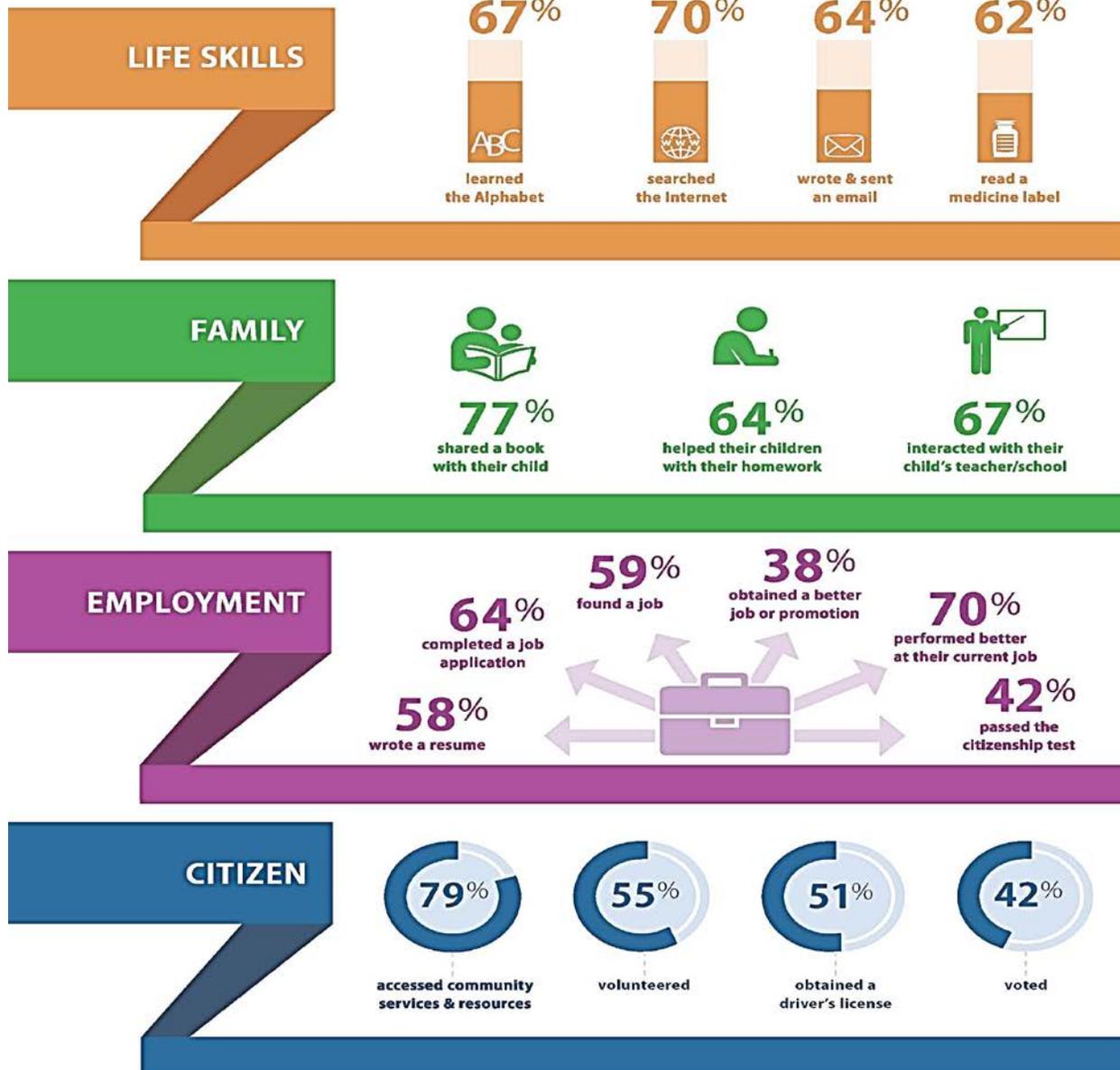
Figure 3: Senator John Garamendi (CA-3rd District); Roxanna Parker, Sutter County Library Literacy and State Librarian Greg Lucas

Outcomes

What difference do CLLS programs make in the lives of the adults they serve? Of those who set the following goals, percentage achieved is:



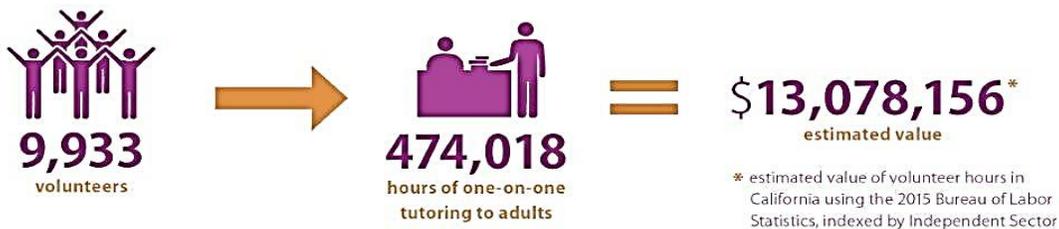
2014/15 CLLS OUTCOMES: GOALS REACHED BY ADULT STUDENTS



* Results are based on 18,220 adults reporting over the 12-month period

Volunteers

In the 2014-2015 fiscal year, close to 10,000 trained volunteers provided individualized one-on-one tutoring to over 18,000 adults in 800 library locations around the state. The estimated value of the volunteer time contributed is over \$13 million using the Independent Sector Index for the 2015 Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Outreach and Partnerships

Local literacy programs are moving outside library walls and into their communities more than ever before. Programs the State Library supports can be found in migrant camps, at social services sites, and through local nonprofits. Local literacy programs are also encouraged to enhance partnerships with adult education consortiums and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act boards to serve California's common goal of an educated and employable workforce.

- **California's Adult Education Consortiums:** Many librarians have been invited to participate in these regional consortiums, created through Assembly Bill 86 in 2013 because of the role library literacy services play in developing the reading and writing skills necessary to benefit from adult and community college education. In some cases, librarians remain under-valued partners in these consortiums despite the benefits of library literacy programs for some categories of learners. Partnerships are continuing to develop, however.
- **Workforce Development:** According to the [U.S. Department of Labor](#), "public libraries have played an important role in addressing the varied employment-related needs of American workers, job seekers, and employers. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 recognizes this role by specifically identifying public libraries as optional partners in American Job Centers – the first time federal law has done so."

This partnership includes but isn't limited to helping library visitors find workforce and labor market information as well as help in searching for jobs. To the extent local funds are available, library literacy programs have continued to embrace this role and provide assistance with writing resumes, completing job applications, taking professional exams, obtaining high school diplomas and improving general literacy skills needed to get a job or advance in a current occupation.

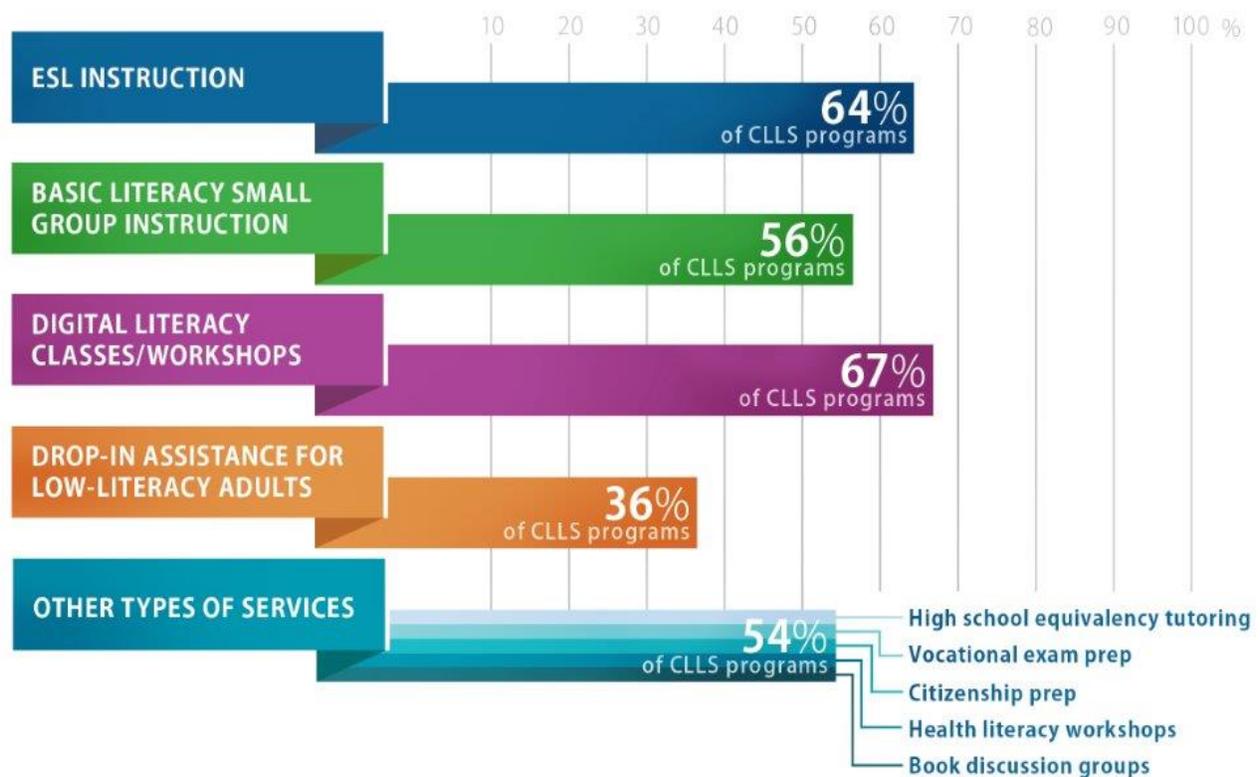
Supporting Lifelong Learning

Although the mission of California Library Literacy Services is to enable Californians of all ages to reach their literacy goals and use library services effectively, many programs are providing value-added lifelong

learning opportunities to further meet learner needs by offering technology classes, job coaching, health literacy classes, and more.

Additionally, 64 percent of library literacy program participants also provide English language instruction and 60 percent provide conversation classes for English language learners.

IN ADDITION TO ONE-ON-ONE TUTORING, CLLS PROGRAMS OFFER:



- **Digital Literacy:** According to the Pew Research Center, one in five adults can't access or use the Internet. Those without a high school education are among the least likely to have access. The National Academy of Sciences says:

“Expectations for literacy include the use of digital and online media to communicate and to produce, find, and evaluate information to meet educational and work demands. Strong reading and writing skills underpin valued aspects of digital literacy in many key areas of work and daily life.”
([National Academy of Sciences](#))

While there's no substitute for a tutor-learner relationship, there are software programs and apps available both for reading and English acquisition as well as fostering digital literacy which should be incorporated in the program but the current level of state investment doesn't allow.

FY 2014/2015 CLLS Awards

Library Literacy Program	Adult Literacy	Family	ELLI	MLLS	CLLS Award Amount 14/15
Alameda County Library	√				90,538
Alameda Free Library	√				25,234
Altadena Library District	√				22,877
Amador County Library	√	-			25,411
Anaheim Public Library	√				15,000
Azusa City Library	√				17,458
Beaumont Library District	√				21,394
Benicia Public Library	√	√			20,220
Berkeley Public Library	√	√			49,011
Beverly Hills Public Library	√				29,972
Brawley Public Library	√	√		√	23,014
Burbank Public Library	√				24,461
Butte County Library	√			√	36,550
Calaveras County Library	√				22,731
Calexico (Camarena) Library	√				20,129
Carlsbad City Library	√				47,100
Chula Vista Public Library	√				26,235
Colton Public Library	√	√	√		26,734
Colusa County Library	√			√	22,164
Commerce Public Library	√		√		23,712
Contra Costa County Library	√	√			61,713
Corona Public Library	√				21,450
Covina Public Library	√				25,862

Library Literacy Program	Adult Literacy	Family	ELLI	MLLS	CLLS Award Amount 14/15
Del Norte County Library	√	√			21,943
Downey City Library**	√				28,101
Escondido Public Library	√	√			41,450
Fresno County Library	√	√		√	44,990
Glendora Public Library	√				20,131
Hayward Public Library	√	√			47,000
Hemet Public Library**	√				21,676
Humboldt County Library**	√				24,910
Huntington Beach Library	√	√	√		44,156
Imperial County Library	√				17,736
Imperial Public Library	√				16,000
Lake County Library	√	√	√		26,164
Livermore Public Library	√				37,270
Lodi Public Library	√				19,670
Lompoc Public Library**	√				24,869
Los Angeles Public Library	√				170,701
Menlo Park Public Library	√				33,503
Merced County Library	√				34,068
Monrovia Public Library**	√				32,519
Monterey County Library	√	√		√	34,687
Monterey Park (Bruggemeyer)	√	√	√		28,065
Napa City-County Library**	√	√			39,215
National City Public Library	√	√			41,152
Nevada County Library**	√				23,567
Newport Beach Public Library	√				34,988
Oakland Public Library	√	√			53,369

Library Literacy Program	Adult Literacy	Family	ELLI	MLLS	CLLS Award Amount 14/15
Oceanside Public Library**	√				23,314
Orange County Public Library	√	√			77,904
Placer County Library**	√				21,069
Pleasanton Public Library	√				28,293
Plumas County Library**	√	√	√		54,382
Porterville Public Library	√		√		21,427
Rancho Cucamonga P.L.**	√				21,992
Redwood City Public Library**	√	√	√		119,037
Richmond Public Library**	√				79,442
Riverside County Library**	√				28,855
Riverside Public Library	√	√			19,578
Roseville Public Library	√				24,835
Sacramento Public Library**	√				48,018
Salinas Public Library**	√	√			56,829
San Benito County**	√				18,468
San Bernardino County Library	√				98,749
San Bernardino Public Library	√	√	√		58,662
San Diego County Library**	√				48,790
San Diego Public Library	√	√			93,203
San Francisco Public Library	√	√			62,526
San Jose Public Library	√	√			70,225
San Leandro Comm. Library**	√	√			33,703
San Luis Obispo City-County **	√				44,697
San Mateo County Library**	√				52,372
San Mateo Public Library	√	√			26,133
Santa Barbara Public Library**	√				35,841

Library Literacy Program	Adult Literacy	Family	ELLI	MLLS	CLLS Award Amount 14/15
Santa Clara County Library	√	√			47,070
Santa Clara Public Library	√				45,241
Santa Fe Springs City Library	√		√		26,946
Santa Maria Public Library**	√				24,858
Santa Paula (Blanchard) Library**	√	√			19,832
Shasta County Library**	√				26,819
Siskiyou County Free Library**	√				15,000
Solano County Library	√	√			62,029
Sonoma County Library	√	√			41,208
South San Francisco Library**	√	√	√	√	55,070
Stanislaus County Library**	√	√			179,630
Stockton/San Joaquin Co. Lib.	√	√		√	33,800
Sutter County Library**	√				31,536
Tulare County Library	√	√			54,483
Tuolumne County Library	√			√	21,207
Upland Public Library**	√	√			24,717
Ventura County Library	√				40,690
Watsonville Public Library	√	√			33,149
Willows Public Library/Orland**	√	√			32,453
Woodland Public Library**	√				53,504
Yolo County**	√				21,544
TOTAL	96	38	11	8	3,820,000