



## CALIFORNIA LIBRARY LITERACY SERVICES New Coordinator Orientation Packet

Congratulations on becoming part of California Library Literacy Services—often known as CLLS. The CLLS program represents the intersection of how your library serves your community, your community supports its library, and the California State Library serves the needs of state residents and libraries.

California Library Literacy Services has a strong network of library literacy coordinators who are ready and able to encourage, inspire, and collaborate with you. The coordinators involved in the program have a range of experience; from 30 years to a few months. Although experience levels may vary, all coordinators have strengths and expertise and programs benefit from a strong culture of collaboration and idea sharing.



The California State Library is here to provide not only program funding, but also logistical support to program coordinators. The State Library literacy team (contact information below) is always ready to answer questions, provide assistance, or steer you to resources. The statewide CLLS program has many avenues to support your needs—through regional networks, the CLLS website, listservs, training sessions, and ways to learn from other programs. We encourage you to take advantage of all these opportunities.

We look forward to getting to know you and cheering you on.

Your California State Library Team,

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## **CHECKLIST FOR NEW COORDINATORS**

- Connect with the California State Library's literacy team
- Connect with colleagues in your library
- Connect with your Regional Literacy Network
- Get added to the statewide California Library Literacy Services listserv and your Regional Literacy Network listserv
- Find out when the next new coordinators' orientation will take place
- Review the California Library Literacy Services website: [libraryliteracy.org](http://libraryliteracy.org)

## MISSION AND VALUES

California Library Literacy Services is a library-based program, set apart from other adult education and literacy providers by its program structure and unique mission and values. The CLLS mission is supported by seven values, which outline its unique role in the field. Those values are further defined by sets of program essentials to guide you in implementing your program.

### MISSION STATEMENT

California Library Literacy Services programs partner with adults to enable them to develop their literacy skills, achieve their learning goals, and use library services effectively. They create opportunities for individuals, families, and communities across California.

### VALUES

#### 1. California Library Literacy Services Are Library-Based

Public libraries are uniquely suited to providing literacy services. The library is a trusted space at the heart of the community. It provides a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment. And it contains resources and services that support lifelong learning.

##### Program Essentials

- a. Literacy services are anchored by the public library. Tutoring is provided in the library. If tutoring is provided elsewhere, a strong connection to the library is made and maintained for all enrolled learners.
- b. All learners, their families, and program volunteers are supported in obtaining a library card.
- c. Program staff connect learners with library services and resources to help them and their families succeed.
- d. Program staff create a supportive and welcoming environment within the library for learners and their families.

#### 2. California Library Literacy Services Are a Core Library Service

Literacy services contribute to the library's mission to provide equity of access to lifelong learning opportunities. Literacy services also bring a new and diverse clientele to the library, increase the library's visibility, and enhance community goodwill toward the library.

##### Program Essentials

- a. The local library provides funding and resources to support library literacy services.
- b. Library administration assign dedicated, professional staff to library literacy services.
- c. Program staff are closely connected with library administration and other library staff.
- d. Library literacy services are included in the library's story (e.g. in the strategic plan, annual report etc.) and the library's branding is included on literacy materials.
- e. Literacy services and all materials are provided at no cost to program participants.

### **3. California Library Literacy Services Are Learner-Driven**

Learner-driven services empower learners to find their voice and strengths and achieve their goals in their major life roles as lifelong learners, family members, workers, and community members. Learner-driven services benefit the individual learner, help to build stronger workplaces, families, and communities, and add value to the library literacy program.

#### Program Essentials

- a. Adult learners set personal goals that guide instruction and shape learning.
- b. Library literacy services are provided one-to-one or in small groups (e.g. 2-8 people) to provide individualized and learner-driven training.
- c. Library literacy services use a goal-based system to measure learners' progress and achievements.
- d. Library literacy services provide programming that enables adult learners to meet and learn from each other.
- e. Adult learners strengthen their leadership skills through special initiatives such as Adult Learner Leadership Institutes, as Adult Learners on Staff, and through other opportunities.
- f. Library literacy services recruit and train learners to serve as staff members, volunteers, and program ambassadors.
- g. Program staff connect people who require services that are not provided by California Library Literacy Services with other agencies that can better address their needs and goals.

### **4. California Library Literacy Services Are Community-Focused**

Library Literacy Services have a strong community presence. Services are relevant and responsive to adult learners, their families, and their communities. Library literacy services are grounded in community knowledge that program staff generate by interacting with individuals and organizations in the library and the community on an ongoing basis.

#### Program Essentials

- a. Program staff develop services that align with their community's aspirations.
- b. Program staff develop services that are responsive to the diversities in their community.
- c. Program staff take an asset-based approach when assessing and connecting with their community.
- d. Program staff create and sustain connections and partnerships with individuals, community-based organizations, and other local government agencies.
- e. Program staff develop cooperative relationships with other local literacy service providers and participate in existing adult literacy coalitions. (If no local coalition currently exists, library literacy staff shall assist in the establishment of such a coalition.)

## **5. California Library Literacy Services Are Volunteer-Supported**

Tutors and other volunteers are fundamental to the success of California Library Literacy Services. Volunteers are advocates for the library and its literacy services, and they help library literacy programs reflect the library's community. In turn, programs enrich volunteers' lives, helping them develop expertise to succeed in the roles they play in the program, opening avenues of meaningful connections with others, and providing opportunities to practice and support lifelong learning in their community.

### Program Essentials

- a. Program staff work to recruit volunteers who reflect the community's demographic and cultural characteristics.
- b. Volunteer tutors are provided with tutor training before starting to work with a learner, and ongoing training opportunities thereafter.
- c. Volunteers are encouraged and supported in establishing and achieving their own goals as volunteers.
- d. Volunteers are provided with opportunities to serve as ambassadors for the library literacy program.
- e. Volunteer contributions are publicly and privately acknowledged.

## **6. California Library Literacy Services Staff Are Professionally Engaged**

Professional development opportunities and training for program staff and volunteers are fundamental to ensuring high-quality adult and family library literacy services.

### Program Essentials

- a. Program staff participate in California Library Literacy Services regional literacy networks to share information and learn from one another.
- b. Program staff seek out and participate in local, regional, and statewide library literacy professional development and training opportunities.
- c. Program staff seek out and implement effective and evidence-based strategies in providing literacy services.
- d. The library literacy program encourages and supports innovation and the evaluation and sharing of innovative efforts.
- e. The library literacy program supports and encourages a culture of learning and continuing education, whether virtual, in-person, experiential, or through open and ongoing communication.

## **7. California Library Literacy Services Support Families**

Family Literacy Services contribute to strong communities and families. An open and equitable program culture welcomes families and diverse community stakeholders, and celebrates curiosity, inquiry, and joyful discovery.

Services are based on proven practices. They build on communities' and families' strengths, complement families' home literacy practices, and align with learners' aspirations. Family Literacy Services connect and engage families with programming, resources, and each other so adults can learn new things to use in family life. Staff embed reflective practices in all aspects of service to improve programming and to demonstrate the value that family literacy delivers to families and the community.



Family Literacy Services align with all other California Library Literacy Services Program Essentials.

### Program Essentials

- a. Family Literacy Services focus on adult literacy learners and their family members, younger and older generations alike. Adult learners are either already enrolled in a CLLS program or are eligible to be enrolled.
- b. Program staff provide services in the library and through community outreach.
- c. Program staff include principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion in program planning and delivery.
- d. Literacy program staff collaborate with other library departments when doing so can maximize opportunities for learners and families in promoting lifelong library use and offering enjoyable family reading and storytelling experiences, advocacy training, and more.
- e. Program staff engage both enrolled and not yet enrolled adult learners in designing program plans that are based on learners' aspirations as family members.
- f. Program staff offer learning opportunities that foster meaningful social bonds as families share and discover resources, learn from each other, and generate knowledge.
- g. Program staff design programming that can engage adults in several ways: together with their families, separately from their families, and for enrolled learners, in conjunction with tutoring sessions.
- h. Family literacy resources include library, community, and peer-recommended resources that are tailored to the roles learners play in their families, their aspirations, and the developmental stages of family members.
- i. Family literacy giveaway materials include new books, kits, games, and other engaging and informative items for learners and their families to select, keep, and enjoy at home.
- j. Program staff offer services, as necessary, to enable families to participate in programming.
- k. Program staff share strategies with learners to help them reflect on their learning, and staff members regularly assess and evaluate programming.



## OVERVIEW OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY LITERACY SERVICES PROGRAMS

California Library Literacy Service programs are funded by grants from the California State Library and funds contributed locally by the library and other community groups. California Library Literacy Services include two programs, each with a specific focus and target audience.

### **Adult Literacy Services**

Trained volunteers provide tutoring for English-speaking adults with low literacy skills. Tutoring is provided in one-to-one and small-group sessions and is tailored to each learner's individual goals and aspirations. Tutoring sessions take place in comfortable spaces in the library and other welcoming public places in the learner's community.

In addition to tutoring, staff and volunteers connect learners with other library programs and resources and other community services. Some libraries recruit learners to work as staff members or volunteers, and learners often serve as program ambassadors.

### **Family Literacy Services**

Family literacy services focus on adult learners and their family members, older and younger generations alike. Families take part in programming, are connected to resources and each other, and are given materials to take home and keep.

Programming includes storytimes, games, music, and concept learning activities to help adult learners support their children's education and development. Program staff help adults develop their confidence and skills and learn how to select books, read to their children, and foster a love of reading.

Staff members also help adults strengthen their connections and communications with educators, healthcare professionals, and other family members, and navigate the systems and services that affect their families.

In some communities, family literacy services are provided using specially outfitted vehicles that visit low-income housing developments, migrant camps, local day care centers, Head Start programs, and recreation centers in hard-to-reach and underserved communities.

## GETTING STARTED AT YOUR LIBRARY

### Your Library's Mission

The first steps to take when thinking about your California Library Literacy Services program are to consider your library's mission and how your program can support and advance that mission. Speak with your supervisor and library administration about your program's contributions. Assess current strengths and look at areas where you can improve. You may want to use the Values and Program Essentials listed above to create a plan for program growth and improvement.

Next, consider what literacy activities would align most closely with your library's mission and how those activities align and connect with other library services. Some examples of coordinating with other library services would be working with youth services to reach parents of young patrons, participating in mobile library and outreach programs, or getting involved with healthy community initiatives to reach more patrons.

"Take time to learn the culture of the library. Be effective within the culture of the city, the culture of the library. Offer to contribute solutions, don't just talk about what's not working."

--Valerie Hardie  
Literacy Program Administrator  
San Diego Public Library

### Governance Structure

You should also become familiar with your library's governance structure; who reports to whom. This will help you make sure your program is connected as an integral part of overall services to the community. It will also help you determine how best to keep the library administration informed about literacy activities. It is important to maintain this communication.

Note: California Library Literacy Services coordinators recommend introducing adult learners to administrators in addition to passing along success stories. Hearing learners describe, in their own words, how the program has affected their lives is very effective in demonstrating the impacts of the program.

### The Bottom Line

Literacy services play a crucial role in providing equitable access to lifelong learning opportunities at the library. They also bring a new and diverse clientele to the library, increase the library's visibility, and enhance community goodwill toward the library.

## FUNDING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

### CLLS Funding Formula

California Library Literacy Services is a statewide program established in 1984 by the California State Library and written into [law](#) by the California Legislature. The California State Library distributes funds to participating libraries according to a three-part formula that reflects the California Library Literacy Services mission and values. The funding formula was created in 2003 to implement the amended California Library Literacy Services Law.

<p>Local Library Literacy Services Certify for the Previous Fiscal Year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The amount of local funds expended on Adult and Family Literacy Services in the previous fiscal year</li> <li>2. The number of adult learners served in the previous fiscal year</li> <li>3. An intent to provide Adult Literacy Services</li> </ol>				
<p>California State Library Awards for the New Fiscal Year use this three-part formula. Awards are issued to continuing CLLS programs which meet all CLLS Program Essentials.</p>				
 <b>1</b>  <b>BASELINE</b>		 <b>2</b>  <b>ADDITIONAL FUNDING</b>		 <b>3</b>  <b>PER CAPITA</b>
<p>A baseline amount is provided for Adult and Family Literacy Services.</p> <p>The baseline recognizes that dedicated literacy staff members are essential to the program and provides at least enough money to partly support one dedicated staff person.</p>		<p>Additional funding based on the amount of local dollars expended on Adult and Family Literacy in the previous year (per certification)*</p> <p>The additional funds reward those programs that are able to generate local support. This state leverage has often been key in developing local funds.</p>		<p>A per capita amount based on the number of adult learners served in the previous year (per certification)*</p> <p>The per capita recognizes that adult literacy learners are the cornerstone of all our literacy programming and therefore rewards programs for the number of adult learners instructed.</p>
<b>SAFEGUARD</b>				
<p>Assuming enough state funds are available, funding for a library literacy service will not be reduced more than a certain percentage over the prior year.</p>				
<p>*If local funds spent on Adult and Family Literacy are less than the baseline, the library is not eligible for either the additional funds or the per capita portions of this formula.</p>				



The California State Library communicates important funding information and reporting deadlines to the field through the California Library Literacy Services listserv and website. To be added to the CLLS listserv please [contact](#) us. Reading and following the listserv posts will provide you with valuable program information as well as relevant reporting materials and dates.

### **Application and Reporting Timeline: Key dates**

- January: Annual Mid-year report is due (current fiscal year).
- February: Pre-application forms are due (upcoming fiscal year).
- April/May: Annual application forms are due (upcoming fiscal year).
- May: Notification of award amount pending approved Governor's state budget (upcoming fiscal year).
- July: Program year begins (current fiscal year).  
Awards are issued when the state budget passes (current fiscal year)
- August / September: Annual final reports are due (previous fiscal year).

Ongoing: Budget change request forms should be submitted if you would like to reallocate funds from one approved budget category to another prior to moving the funds. Forms must be submitted for approval before the end of the fiscal year (June 30<sup>th</sup>).

### **Reporting Content**

The content you will be reporting falls into three main areas:

1. Statistical information
2. Evaluation data
3. Financial information

State Library staff sends reporting deadlines and reminders via the CLLS listserv. The CLLS program uses Counting Opinions for most reports and you should have your login information for the system. (If you do not have your login, contact Annly Roman at [annly.roman@library.ca.gov](mailto:annly.roman@library.ca.gov)).

Additionally, the report includes a Certification form that must be signed by your authorized library representative (usually the Library Director). A hard copy with original signature must be mailed to the state library.

To help you prepare for these reports, the following are lists of information you will need to collect.

## Statistical Information

Collect statistical data for your reports for each fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). This information will give the State Library, and subsequently the State Legislature, an overview of what is being accomplished with your grant award. It will give you a picture of your program's success to share with your local stakeholders. We recommend that you set up a database or spreadsheet to capture and maintain all of the information. You will need to collect data on:

### General

- Number of locations where services were provided
  - Number of library outlets (e.g. branch or main library)
  - Number of community locations (Libraries in other jurisdictions count as community locations)
- Regional Network name (such as BALit, SCLLN, etc.)
- Number of regional network meetings attended
- Did you participate in your local Adult Education Program consortium? (<https://caladulted.org/ConsortiumDirectory>)
  - If yes, how did you participate? If no, why didn't you participate?

### Demographics (For Learners and Volunteers)

- Age categories:
  - Age 16-19
  - Age 20-29
  - Age 30-39
  - Age 40-49
  - Age 50-59
  - Age 60-69
  - Age 70 plus
  - Unknown Age
- Gender: Report on the number who:
  - Identify as a man (cis or transgender)
  - Identify as a woman (cis or transgender)
  - Identify as nonbinary or genderqueer
  - Identify as not sure
  - Prefer not to answer this question
  - Report that they prefer a different term (please write in)
- Ethnicity: Report your tutors' and learners' race and ethnicity data using the categories on the U.S. Census (Items 8 and 9). An option will be provided for people who prefer to not answer the question.  
<https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions.html>

### Adult Learners (Note: The period is the fiscal year that runs 7/1 – 6/30)

- Number of learners continuing from previous period
- Number of learners who began instruction this reporting period

- Total learners who received instruction this period
- Number of learners who left during this period
- Number of learners awaiting instruction or rematch at end of this period
- Number of learners who are incarcerated
- Total number of learner instructional hours for this filing period
- Number of learners who have library cards
- Learner / tutor ratio
- Learner / staff ratio

### **Family Literacy (for those with Family Literacy Programs)**

- Number of adult learners served:
  - enrolled in your CLLS program
  - eligible for your CLLS program but not enrolled (English Speaking adults with low literacy skills)
- Number of children under age 5
- Number of children age 5 years and older
- Number of family members 18 and older
- Total number of family literacy programs you provided (series of four storytimes, for example, would count as four programs)
- Total number of trainings you provided for staff and volunteers
- Total number of books you gave away

### **Volunteers**

- Number of volunteer tutors continuing from previous period (July 1- June 30)
- Volunteer tutors who began during this reporting period
- Total volunteer tutors who instructed during this period
- Volunteer tutors who left during this period
- Number of non-tutor volunteers in literacy program
- Total number of volunteers
- Volunteer tutors awaiting training/matching/re-matching
- Number of volunteer instructional hours
- Number of other volunteer hours (non-tutoring)
- Number of volunteers with a library card

### **Tutor Training**

- Number of training hours new tutors are required to complete before beginning to tutor
- Total number of volunteer tutor training hours

### **Library Impact**

- What program and service needs do you have that you are unable to meet and why?
- How do you collaborate and connect with other library departments?



- A statement from your library director on how literacy services have impacted the rest of the library in this grant year

### **Community Partners**

Community partners include any agencies, businesses, schools, or other entities with which you have an agreement (casual or formal) to receive or provide services and/or support and/or referrals at no charge for adult literacy services.

The following are not considered to be community partners and should not be included in the list:

- The library or other library departments. Literacy services should be a core library service that is integrated with other library departments.
- (If relevant) The agency with which the library contracts to provide library literacy services. This agency receives California Library Literacy Services funds through the library to deliver library literacy services on behalf of the library and is a contractor.
- Any other contractor to which you provide any CLLS funds to deliver literacy services

### **English as a Second Language (ESL) Report**

Although CLLS funds must be used to support native and non-native English speaking youth and adults, the State Library acknowledges libraries that have identified local resources to provide English Language Learner services in communities where there is a need. This section for ESL activities is included to gain a complete picture of local literacy services provided.

- Number of ESL adults served
- First or home languages of ESL adults served

### **Other Services Report**

These services can include any outreach and educational programming to at-risk populations (children, youth or adults) provided through your literacy services office and NOT funded by CLLS (i.e. Reach Out and Read; Head Start; Spanish literacy; etc.)

### **Success Stories**

One success story from each of your programs

## ROLES AND GOALS (OUTCOME-BASED PLANNING)

As demonstrated by the Values statement toward the beginning of this document, California Library Literacy Services programs are learner-driven. Programs not only help learners to improve reading and writing skills, but they also create opportunities for empowerment. They support learners in finding and using their voice, and achieving goals in all areas of their lives.

California Library Literacy Services are planned, implemented, and evaluated using Roles and Goals, a learner-centered framework. The Roles and Goals framework helps staff and volunteers:

- Identify the goals that learners want to accomplish with their improved literacy skills.
- Deliver learner-centered instruction that is tailored to learners' goals and aspirations.
- Track, acknowledge, and celebrate progress.
- Evaluate the impact of the library literacy program.

Learners select and work toward personal goals that are relevant to their lives. Goal-setting within the framework helps learners achieve success in their major life roles as community members, workers, family members, and lifelong learners. Learners set their goals upon entering the program, keep them prominent in their tutoring sessions, and document when the goals have been met. [Detailed instructions](#) on the Roles and Goals structure are available on the website.

The California State Library requires each program to report on learners' Roles and Goals in the annual final report. The results provide valuable information on how learners are progressing toward the educational goals valuable to them as well as the effectiveness of the programs.

“Roles & Goals. . . That is the core of what we do. That’s what distinguishes us from K-12 and adult education and community colleges and everything else. That is absolute core. It guides all our training. It guides all our lessons. It guides every single thing we do.”

– Carrie Scott, Carlsbad Library Learning Center

[Roles and Goals forms](#) will help you to collect the data. You will collect and report the following information:

## **ROLES & GOALS**

- Number of learners who received instruction this period
- Number of learners who set at least one goal this period
- Percentage of learners who set at least one goal during this period
- Breakdown of goals by number who 1) set that goal, 2) are making progress on the goal, 3) who met that goal
- An adult or family literacy learner success story

Your data, aggregated with that from other programs across the state, help the State Library illustrate the difference CLLS makes in California. Learner goal attainment is highlighted in the CLLS [Report to the Legislature](#).



## CALIFORNIA LIBRARY LITERACY SERVICES PROGRAM EXPENSES

The California Library Literacy Services Program is subject to Chapter 4.6. California Library Literacy and English Acquisition Service Program (California Education Code Title 1, Division 1, Part 11, Chapter 4.6, Section 18880-18883). Section 18883 states:

A local library shall ensure that funds received pursuant to this chapter are exclusively used for expenses resulting from providing English language and literacy services and shall ensure that at least 90 percent of the funds received for the program are expended on direct services and related materials."

Your literacy budget is a combination of the State CLLS award and the local revenue contributed to support your literacy programs. Report all additional funding you receive for your adult literacy and family literacy services programs. Local funding that supports ESL and other library literacy-related services **is not eligible to count toward additional CLLS dollars.**

Specific categories on the financial report are:

Salaries and Benefits: Salaries, including benefits, for all literacy services staff (full- or part-time) employed directly by the library, city, county or district. Include only the portion of the salary that aligns with the time the person spent on the California Library Literacy Services program.

Contract Staff: Limited-term literacy staff employed under personal service contracts.

Operations: Expenses incurred in operating the literacy services. This category can include:

- Travel: expenditures incurred by personnel performing services for the program. (CLLS policy does not allow using CLLS state funds for out-of-state travel. Local funds should be used for this purpose.)
- Office Supplies: paper, pencils, staplers, etc.
- Printing: duplicating, photocopying and printing costs
- Communications: telephone, FAX, postage, and other communication expenses

Other: Other miscellaneous operating expenses incurred by the literacy program that do not fit into the above categories and are allowable according to CLLS policies.

Literacy Materials (for circulation, to provide to the community, and to use in the library and other spaces where library literacy services are provided):

- Circulation Materials: acquisitions included in the library's general collection to support California Library Literacy Services.
- Materials to provide to the community: These may include books, booklets, workbooks, videos, and other materials given to participants to keep or consume. Included are:

- Collections for new readers' instruction
- Materials for professional development of staff
- Collection about literacy for public awareness
- Additions to children's collection to be utilized for the Family Literacy programming,
- Non-print literacy materials
- Programming Materials: includes items to support family literacy programming

Small Equipment: tablets, computers, and other small equipment purchases (less than \$5,000 per unit) that are not part of the annual operating budget

Equipment (\$5,000+):

Long-term, depreciable items in excess of \$5,000 that are not part of the annual operating budget. The California State Library must approve equipment purchases in excess of \$5,000.

Indirect Costs:

Indirect costs or fiscal agent fees charged to the literacy program for payroll processing, accounting, facility space, utilities, etc. **The amount budgeted may not be more than 10% of your CLLS award.** We know that libraries often provide additional support for the literacy program, in terms of space, utilities, etc., but any amount over and above the 10% indirect cost amount should be reported as In-Kind. Materials / supplies / printing / communications provided by the library / city / county / district at no direct charge to the literacy services should not be included.

## **Encumbrances and Interest on Grant Funds**

Encumbrances: Encumbered funds are those that have been deposited in the awardee's accounting system and for which a budget has been provided to and approved by the State Library. California Library Literacy Services funds must be expended or encumbered by June 30 of the fiscal year in which the funds were awarded. Encumbered funds must be spent and fully expended by the following December 31 (i.e. within the calendar year).

**IMPORTANT:** Any CLLS funds not reported as expended or encumbered by June 30 are required to be returned to the State. At any time, if you believe that your program, for any reason (staff vacancies, etc.), is not able to spend your entire award amount, notify state library staff immediately: [info@libraryliteracy.org](mailto:info@libraryliteracy.org). If returned before April 30 those funds can be redistributed to other programs. If unexpended funds are reported and returned after April 30, those funds are no longer available to CLLS, and must be returned to the State's general fund.

**Please note:** Requirements for spending encumbered funds may be stricter on the local level than what is required of the state. Check with your local finance department for further guidance on encumbered funds.



Interest on Grant Funds: Recipients are encouraged to deposit grant funds in interest-bearing accounts wherever possible with the understanding that the interest will be used for library literacy purposes. Interest income need not be reported on financial reports.

Staff Commitment: Include the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) for all library personnel and contracted personnel who contribute to the California Library Literacy Services program. Report ONLY time spent on the California Library Literacy Services program. For example, if a staff person spends 50% of their time on the literacy program and 50% outside of literacy, only the time (50%) can be reported here.

FTE Calculations:

- 1 FTE = 40 hours per week for a 52 week year (equals 2080 hours per year)
- .5 FTE = 20 hours per week for a 52 week year
- .25 FTE = 10 hours per week for a 52 week year

Example: Two staff each working 40 hours per week (for a total of 80 hours) = 2 FTE

## **Notes on Allowable and Unallowable Expenses**

### **Allowable Expenses**

In response to the spread of COVID-19, the cost of items such as Plexiglas screens, personal protective equipment (PPE), and similar, which enable the CLLS program to continue operating during this time of physical distancing, are allowable.

Funds may only be used to support the CLLS program and may only be used for items that enable the CLLS program to continue operating during this time. Items included below that were previously unallowable remain unallowable.

If you have questions about the allowability of any items, please contact the California State Library before making your purchase.

**BACKGROUND CHECKS:** The cost of background checks for literacy volunteers is allowable.

**CHILDCARE:** The cost of providing childcare that contributes directly to enabling learners to participate in a family literacy program is allowable.

**DATABASES:** The cost of subscriptions to databases that support the California Library Literacy Services program are allowable.

**FOOD AND BEVERAGES:** Food and beverage purchases are allowable for family literacy programming when intended to enhance full family participation or enable families to participate.

**FURNITURE:** Specialized furniture is allowable. The furniture must be used in support of adult or family literacy activities.



**MEMBERSHIPS, SUBSCRIPTIONS, AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:** Costs of the grant recipient's memberships in library literacy-related professional organizations are allowable.

**TRAINING:** The cost of training relating to California Library Literacy Services and provided for employee and volunteer development is allowable, including the cost of travel, supplies, working refreshments, and speaker fees or consulting fees for trainers.

**TRAVEL:** Travel to in-state network meetings and professional development opportunities relating to adult and family literacy is allowable. Travel charges should be consistent with those normally allowed in like circumstances of the grant recipient organization in its regular operations and policy.

### **Unallowable Expenses**

**ADVERTISING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Costs of advertising and public relations at conventions, meetings or other events, including displays, demonstrations, exhibits, meeting rooms, hospitality suites, and special facilities used in conjunction with shows and special events; and salaries of employees engaged in setting up and displaying exhibits, making demonstrations, and providing briefings are unallowable.

**BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION COSTS:** General library building, construction, or renovation costs are unallowable.

**CONTRIBUTIONS, DONATIONS, HONORARIUMS, STIPENDS:** Contributions and donations, including cash, property, and services, that use grant funds and are made by grant recipients to others, regardless of the recipient, are unallowable.

**ENTERTAINMENT:** Costs of entertainment, including amusement, diversion, and social activities, and any costs directly associated with those, such as tickets to shows or sports events, meals, lodging, rentals, transportation, and gratuities are unallowable.

**FOOD AND BEVERAGES:** Costs of alcoholic beverages are unallowable. Food and beverage purchases for volunteer recognition events and social activities are unallowable. We encourage library literacy programs, where possible, to work with community partners to obtain donations of food and beverages to support their literacy programs.

**FUNDRAISING:** Costs of organized fundraising, including financial campaigns, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred to raise capital or to obtain contributions, are unallowable.

**FURNITURE:** General library furniture is unallowable.

**LOBBYING:** The cost of certain influencing activities associated with obtaining grants, contracts, cooperative agreements or loans, is unallowable. Costs of membership in organizations substantially engaged in lobbying are unallowable.



PREMIUMS, PRIZES, INCENTIVES, AND SOUVENIRS: Costs of promotional items and memorabilia, including models, gifts, and souvenirs, are unallowable.

TRAVEL: Out-of-state travel costs are unallowable. Local funds should be used for this purpose.

This information is available on the [California Library Literacy Services website](#).

## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT BASICS

For the purposes of this document, we will focus on three basic areas to address when managing your program:

1. Focusing on adult learners
2. Working with volunteers
3. Building community connections and partnerships

There are many variations on these key themes and the ideas highlighted below do not represent not an exhaustive list. You will want to choose your strategies based on what you know about the needs and strengths of your library and community.

First, seek to understand what your library currently does or what it has done in the past. Find out what has been successful. Second, visit with your neighboring California Library Literacy Services programs and find out what has been successful for them. Most California Library Literacy Programs are happy to share strategies, sample documents or materials, and program ideas.

### Focusing on Adult Learners

Adult learners are the core demographic of the California Library Literacy Services program. The Roles & Goals process, as discussed in the previous Funding and Reporting Requirements, helps programs keep this focus. Keep it in mind as you review the following elements.

#### Adult Learner Recruitment

The California Library Literacy Services target audience is adults who speak English, yet struggle with meeting their reading and writing goals. Many learners also struggle with and benefit from tutoring in basic math skills along with their reading and writing.

Some of your prospective learners will be those who have difficulty with reading and writing because English is their second language. They speak and understand English, but lack basic literacy skills, and are eligible for participation in CLLS. If an adult does not speak and understand English well enough to complete an intake in English they are not eligible for placement in your California Library Literacy Services program. Instead, you should connect them with English Language Learning programs in your area; these programs may be in your library, and may be counted as “Other Services” in your reporting. Learn more in the *Learner Intake Process* section.

Other prospective learners are those described as “hard-to-reach; hard-to-teach.” They are native English speakers with varying levels of formal education; they may have graduated from high school, dropped out, or never attended school. You cannot tell they are lacking in literacy skills by looking at them or by listening to them speak. The stigma of illiteracy leads to many of these potential learners hiding their needs. Many will not willingly walk into the library and request services, which means that you will need to

conduct ongoing and extensive outreach so they will learn about the program and gain confidence to ask for services. Learner recruitment is a never-ending activity.

Below are some strategies that California Library Literacy Services coordinators have found to be effective in reaching learners. Some of these strategies involve print materials because, even though the targeted audience has low literacy skills, someone they trust can read the information and inform them about the program.

- word of mouth
- referrals from community organizations
- the library / library staff
- flyers, postcards, pens, posters, banners
- radio ads
- utility bill inserts
- bus ads
- social media
- presentations at clubs, events
- church bulletins

Let's look at a few of them more closely.

- Word of Mouth: Coordinators consistently rank this outreach method as their most effective recruitment strategy, and it predominantly relies on adult learners talking about their experiences. It also encompasses library staff sharing about the program with library patrons and colleagues, and tutors talking with others in the community about their volunteer experiences. There are many adults with low reading/writing skills in California, so when you encourage people to talk about the program, you increase the likelihood of reaching those who need the service.

A recommendation:

When you make a presentation to a group, ask those in the audience to share about what they learned with five more people that week. Give them program brochures / cards to share with those who would like more information.

- Referrals from community organizations: These referrals should bring learners to your door. Simply sending flyers to community organizations, however, may not produce results. It is more effective to make a personal connection with organization staff. As those organizations begin to understand and embrace the California Library Literacy Services program, they become more proactive in referring prospective learners. Once you've forged a connection with a local organization, work to maintain that relationship through frequent communication. Examples of organizations you could reach out to include local adult schools, community colleges, job search centers, social services offices, and human services groups to name a few.

- The library: This includes library staff as well as the bookmarks, flyers, and displays you post around the facility. Many coordinators have shared that children's/youth services staff members are key partners in bringing adults to the literacy offices. We strongly recommend that library staff from other areas physically bring prospective learners to the literacy office. It is much more effective and respectful for a staff member who has already had a conversation with a potential learner, and started to build a relationship, to then walk with learners and make a safe introduction rather than simply suggesting that they call for services.

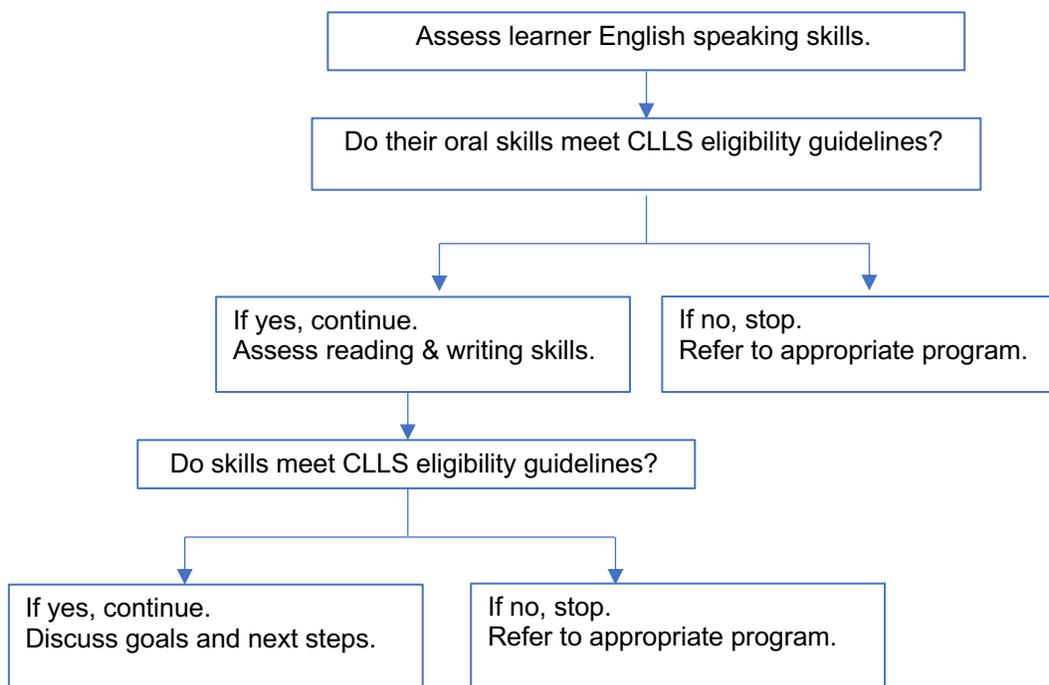
I have found that most of my learners either spoke to someone who was already in the program, or asked library staff if we have anything for adults who need help with reading. Take time to speak with everyone in your system: tutors, learners, circulation staff, reference staff, security guards, custodial staff, . . . everyone. Potential learners will talk to them when they are interested and when they feel safe.

-- Michael Vinyard  
City of Stockton Library Assistant

### Adult Learner Intake Process

A typical learner intake interview and assessment consists of three parts:

- 1) Assessment of English speaking skills;
- 2) Assessment of reading and writing skills; and,
- 3) A talk with learners about their personal reading and writing goals.



## **Basic Eligibility Criteria**

- **Age.** Learners must be at least 16 years of age and out of school. If they are enrolled in school, or if they are younger than 16 years old, they are served by the K-12 school systems and not eligible for your CLLS funded program.
- **Language.** California Library Literacy Services funding was established to serve English-speaking adults. Both native and non-native English speakers are welcome, provided they can communicate proficiently in English. California Library Literacy Services does not specify any single assessment to determine eligibility skill level. Many programs simply require that adults ask for services themselves (either in person or over the phone) and not through someone else, and that they comfortably handle the intake interview in English, without translation help.

Many programs set a policy that requires adult learners to request services for themselves. This helps to determine if the adult speaks English well enough to be eligible for the program. It also helps to avoid potential motivation problems and learning difficulties that can occur when a third party requests the services; e.g. a parent for an adult child, someone for their spouse, an agency worker for a client, etc.
- **Literacy.** California Library Literacy Services is for adults who have low reading and writing skills, regardless of education level. This is *generally* considered to be less than a 6<sup>th</sup> grade level. (Please note that as an adult literacy professional, you will learn that using a grade level is not an appropriate description of an adult's ability. We use it as a short-hand description to give you the general idea.) California Library Literacy Services does not require you to use a specific assessment tool to determine a prospective learner's literacy level. Programs vary greatly in the instruments they use to assess skills and you should consult with staff at other programs to learn what tools they use.

Note: If your library has other funding sources to serve learners who do not meet program eligibility, then you may serve them in other programs. However, you may not use California Library Literacy funds to support those services.

## **First Impressions**

Your learner intake process sets the tone for the learner's experience. One survey of adult learners revealed that prior to enrolling, learners were most concerned with how *friendly* and *supportive* program staff will be. Learners look for reassurance that they will be successful. Make your first contact as comfortable and friendly as possible. Talk with your staff about how they can go out of their way to make learners feel welcome and want to return.

## Adult Learner Retention (Persistence)

How long learners stay in a program depends on their goals, their starting literacy levels, the amount of time they can put into study, and the types of support they have. Some accomplish their goals in a short period of time, while others remain in a program for years, moving at their own pace toward a bigger long-term goal.

Many, unfortunately, do not remain active in a program long enough to reach any meaningful learning goals. This observation spurred the National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy (NCSALL) to research the forces that support or discourage an adult's decision to stay in a basic education, English as a Second Language, or secondary education program. We can learn a lot from the 2005 **Adult Student Persistence Study**, which revealed four areas that affect student persistence.

- Goal Orientation: Learners who have specific goals for entering programs are more likely to persist in their studies. Think California Library Literacy Services Roles & Goals!
- Personal Relationships: Learners with support from family, friends, support groups, church group, etc. are more likely to persist in their studies. Many programs have incorporated group opportunities for learners. This helps learners form personal relationships with one another and cheer each other on.
- Teachers and Other Students: Adult learners say their teachers and classmates are important supports to their persistence.
- Self-efficacy: Learners say that their ability to believe in themselves--to believe that they can attain their goals--is important to their persistence.

Activities based around these areas of support can increase learner retention and success. For more, see Program Administrators' Sourcebook: A Resource on NCSALL's Research for Adult Education Program Administrators, Section 2, page 36.

[http://www.ncsall.net/fileadmin/resources/teach/pasourcebook\\_persistence.pdf](http://www.ncsall.net/fileadmin/resources/teach/pasourcebook_persistence.pdf)

An additional study (linked below) which focused specifically on library literacy programs, describes the challenges programs face, and provides some suggestions for improving student participation.

- **One Day I Will Make It, a Study of Adult Student Persistence in Library Literacy Programs**, Kristin E Porter, Sondra Cuban, John P Comings with Valerie Chase, 2005, Executive Summary:  
<https://www.mdrc.org/sites/default/files/One%20Day%20I%20Will%20Make%20It%20ES.pdf>

## Stop Out Vs. Drop Out

Adult learner participation research informs us that some learners will "stop out" of a program for a time because of personal life issues but then return. Others are quite intermittent in their attendance, coming in and out frequently. Those ideas have changed our paradigm so we no longer think of students as dropping out permanently.

Often, it is a matter of taking time off, which suggests ideas to consider in determining how to reduce “stop out” events:

- How can we support students through the barriers that keep them from reaching their literacy goals?
- How can we make sure learners know they are welcome to return when they are ready?
- What type of programming and scheduling can be provided to support them?

### **Literacy Collection**

There are many high interest-low reading level (High/Low or Hi-Low) materials available to support adult literacy instruction and reading practice. You will want to work with your appropriate library staff to order materials to catalog and make available to be checked out. Some ideas for how to find good materials are:

- Look at the list of most used publishers on the resources page and review their catalogs online.
- Ask colleagues for recommendations via the California Library Literacy Services listserv or at regional library literacy network meetings.
- Visit other programs and look at their collections and find what works well for them.

Your materials purchases will also include workbooks and manuals that the tutors may use with their learners. These are consumables, materials that your learners will write in and keep. Tutor manuals may be more likely to be returned to the program once the volunteer has finished using them, or you may opt to treat them as consumables and encourage volunteers to keep and write in them.

Online and software programs are also key instructional resources, as well as apps and learning games. Ask your colleagues to suggest those that are the most helpful.

### **Working with Volunteers**

California Library Literacy Services programs are heavily volunteer-supported. Volunteers are crucial to learners' successes and, in return, California Library Literacy Services programs enrich volunteers' lives. One recruitment message from the past states, “Volunteer to help someone learn to read. The life you change may be your own” – a phenomenon reported by many tutors across the state. Keep this idea of growth in mind as you work with volunteers, and provide opportunities for them to learn and to become ambassadors for your library.

Volunteer management is a rich and exciting professional field. There is a great deal of literature on the topic. Here are four key areas to consider in overseeing volunteer tutors:

- recruitment
- training
- support
- recognition

## Volunteer Tutor Recruitment

Volunteer tutors provide the instruction to our learners and have the most contact with them. They also can be advocates for your program and the library. Many volunteers say they stepped up to volunteer because they were personally asked. This does not guarantee everyone you ask will say yes, but it will increase your chances of recruiting them. Additionally, surround that ask with tried and true strategies and introduce new ideas of your own.

Here are the top 10 recruitment strategies reported by program coordinators:

- VolunteerMatch
- Library staff /flyers/postcards/displays
- Word of mouth (tutors)
- Community presentations and events
- Library website/blog
- Newspaper articles/ editorials
- Social media
- Banners outside the library
- Radio PSAs
- Craigslist

Let's take a closer look at the first three.

- **VolunteerMatch.** VolunteerMatch is an organization that uses the internet to match non-profit organizations with volunteers who are passionate about an organization's cause. This five minute video will show you how it works:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYVL454IK50>

**Note:** VolunteerMatch.org has a new look since this video was made, but it works pretty much the same way.

The state library has a partnership with VolunteerMatch. This statewide volunteer engagement initiative, **Get Involved: Powered by Your Library**, provides public libraries with VolunteerMatch memberships, supports a community of practice for California libraries who work with volunteers, and provides access to great resources. See <https://getinvolvedclearinghouse.org/> If you don't know how to access your library's VolunteerMatch account, contact Carla Lehn at [clehn@califa.org](mailto:clehn@califa.org) to get started.

- **Library staff, flyers, postcards, displays.** People who already use your library are likely candidates to be volunteer tutors. Use what you have at hand to get the word to them about your volunteer needs.
- **Word of mouth.** Your tutors know what the California Library Literacy Service experience is all about. Encourage current volunteers to recruit others.

For more ideas, see **Ten Time-Tested Volunteer Recruitment Tips that Still Work**, Susan J. Ellis, Energize, Inc.

<https://www.energizeinc.com/hot-topics/2014/september>

While you're there, check out their other excellent volunteer management information.

## Tutor Training

A teaching background is not required of volunteer tutors, but your program should provide your prospective tutors with training. Volunteers enjoy doing what they are good at, being part of a successful program, and knowing that their involvement makes a difference. If training has not prepared them to successfully meet the needs of their assigned adult learners, not only will learners be let down but tutors may be as well. This could cause them to leave the program prematurely feeling frustrated or disillusioned.

Tutor training also provides an opportunity for you to get to know potential tutors better and determine if they are a good fit for your program. Some things to consider are:

- If their skills and attitudes match your program's culture and values
- If you feel comfortable matching them with adult learners

Sometimes it is best to refer volunteers to another program, or suggest a non-tutoring assignment that may be a better fit for them.

California Library Literacy Services does not prescribe a specific tutor training course. It is the local program's responsibility to understand and provide the appropriate training to meet the needs of their learner population. Some libraries choose to hire contract trainers to provide training. Others support their staff members to learn to conduct the trainings themselves.

San Jose Public Library's **Partners in Reading** and Santa Clara City Library's **Read Santa Clara** programs developed instructional videos to demonstrate research-based effective tutoring strategies. Literacy coordinators have reported these videos are great resources for tutors as part of their initial tutor training, as a support for in-service training, or for brush-up and review. See the CLLS website for these [CLLS Tutor Training videos](#) and other resources to support your tutor training program.

NOTE: If you are new to adult literacy, you will benefit from taking an online tutor training course yourself to get a basic understanding of what tutors need to learn. Visit other programs to observe their training sessions, if at all possible.

NOTE: The Literacy Initiative funded through Library Services and Technology federal grant funds pays for membership in ProLiteracy for all CLLS programs. Among many other resources, ProLiteracy provides free online tutor training to its members.

## Tutor Support

Tutor support should be ongoing. It is an important piece of your program, whether support is provided by you directly or by other staff or volunteers. Once tutors have been trained and matched with learner(s), you should: stay in contact with them; encourage them; receive reports on the tutoring sessions and learner progress; and provide additional training opportunities. Programs use a variety of support systems such as:

- Regularly scheduled tutor meetings, which often include training segments
- A newsletter which includes program updates and tutoring ideas
- A mentor system in which experienced tutors mentor newer tutors
- Responses to questions and issues notated on tutor reports
- Participation in adult literacy conferences and trainings
- Referral to live and online training opportunities
- Involvement in special committees and task forces to support the program

Be creative and find what works in your community. As always, your colleagues at your regional literacy network will be happy to share their ideas and give you encouragement and support.

“[My] tutors will tell you that I’m always in touch with them. Always calling to see if they need anything. Have you hit a road block? Can I connect you with another tutor? I encourage tutors to get to know each other.”

Lucy Sims, Beaumont Public Library

## Tutor Recognition

Most programs conduct an annual volunteer recognition event, either for all library volunteers, specifically for adult literacy program volunteers, or both. Events range from potlucks to special ceremonial events to full banquet dinners. The common thread is that the event formally expresses a “thank you” and honors your volunteers’ service.

Beyond the annual event, tutor recognition and appreciation can be expressed in many ways. Not everything has to cost money. Ideas include:

- Greeting volunteers by name and knowing the names of their spouses or children so you can ask about them.
- Sending a personal card to acknowledge a success story shared, or a birthday card.
- Highlighting their participation in local media.
- Inviting them to take on additional program tasks, acknowledging their unique talents.
- Thanking them before city council, the library commission or trustees, or other audiences.

Check with your colleagues to find out what has been successful at their libraries—and don’t forget to share your successful events on the California Library Literacy Services listserv.

## Building Community Connections and Partnerships

**. . . in Your Community** California Library Literacy Services programs are community-focused. Strong library literacy services staff know their communities and develop strong and wide-reaching connections. These connections range from serving on community-wide initiatives, to having a reciprocal process of referring learners, to developing new programs together. The California Library Literacy Services program was designed for your local community to partner with the California State Library to provide literacy services. It is important that you reach into your community to gain support for your program. Equally, it is important for you to highlight your library's unique role in providing adult literacy instruction. Making connections is necessary to sustain your program.

"I wish I would have known the importance of the many community connections which have been established over the years. Although personnel may change at these agencies and organizations, it's important to continue to forge connections and re-introduce our services to newcomers. This can be a labor-intensive task, but it's worth the time."

-- an adult literacy coordinator

Consider your community and what connections make sense for your program. Below are some of the most frequently mentioned connections that programs make. All of them can be active in referring adult learners, and volunteer tutors, to your program. Some may collaborate with you to develop specific programs such as health literacy classes, workplace literacy programs, book drives, fundraisers, etc.

- Adult schools and community colleges
- K-12 schools
- Universities
- Pre-school and childcare programs
- Places of worship
- Local civic organizations (such as Rotary, Women's Clubs, Kiwanis, etc.)
- Social service organizations
- Health clinics
- Chamber of Commerce
- Local businesses

Explore your community and get to know any groups that connect services and agencies. Get a list of local organizations from city hall, your county offices, or from your library's reference staff and visit organizations to learn about them and their priorities. Request to make presentations to their members and invite them to your special programs.

### **. . . in Your Library**

Your public relations and marketing strategies begin with colleagues in your own library. We often devote our efforts to promote our programs outside of the library, and neglect the need to promote internally. Look for opportunities to present the California Library



Literacy Services program to colleagues and to share the difference it is making in the lives of the adult learners. Ask for opportunities to train staff in how to speak with the public about literacy services and to learn to refer learners and volunteers.

### **. . . in the CLLS Network**

One of the best things you can do as a new literacy coordinator is to participate in your [regional literacy network](#). California Library Literacy Services' programs are grouped into eight regional library literacy networks. The networks provide a place for coordinators to exchange information, improve their knowledge and skills and take on leadership roles.

We also encourage you to participate in statewide California Library Literacy Services Zoom meetings/conversations and other professional development opportunities. You will hear about these happenings on the CLLS listserv.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### California State Library

- Beverly Schwartzberg  
Library Programs Consultant  
[Beverly.Schwartzberg@library.ca.gov](mailto:Beverly.Schwartzberg@library.ca.gov)
- Annly Roman  
Literacy and State Grants Coordinator  
[Annly.Roman@library.ca.gov](mailto:Annly.Roman@library.ca.gov)
- Amy Prevedel  
Literacy Initiatives Manager  
[Prevedel@plpinfo.org](mailto:Prevedel@plpinfo.org)
- Jane Cook  
Project Advisor  
[cook@plp.org](mailto:cook@plp.org)
- CLLS Listserv (for literacy coordinators and library directors/supervisors):  
[cls@lists.libraryliteracy.org](mailto:cls@lists.libraryliteracy.org)
- CLLS Regional Networks <https://libraryliteracy.org/for-coordinators/networks-and-listservs/>
- CLLS Website: [www.libraryliteracy.org](http://www.libraryliteracy.org)

### General Resources

- Adult Education Program (adult school and community college consortia):  
[www.aebg.cccco.edu](http://www.aebg.cccco.edu) (as well as local adult schools in your area)
- California Library Association (CLA) Literacy Section: professional development and support membership organization for California library professionals.  
[www.cla-net.org](http://www.cla-net.org)
- Get Involved: Powered by Your Library / VolunteerMatch: a statewide initiative to expand visibility and skilled volunteers through public libraries. Includes

management tools, policies, handbooks, training materials, professional photos, and more. <https://getinvolvedclearinghouse.org>

- National Center for Families Learning: a national organization working to eradicate poverty through education solutions for families, includes professional development and annual conference opportunities. [www.familieslearning.org](http://www.familieslearning.org)
- OTAN (Outreach & Technical Assistance Network): a statewide leadership project funded to support adult education in California. OTAN helps adult educators to incorporate technology into instruction. [www.otan.us](http://www.otan.us)
- ProLiteracy: the largest volunteer adult literacy and basic education membership organization in the nation. Provides professional development and conference opportunities, as well as online tutor training. [www.proliteracy.org](http://www.proliteracy.org)
- Value (Voices of Adult Learners United for Education) USA: national nonprofit organization for adult learners, governed and operated by current and former adult learners across the nation. [www.valueusa.org](http://www.valueusa.org)
- VolunteerMatch: Connects organizations with qualified volunteers. A special arrangement between the California State Library and Volunteer Match provides California libraries with a premium VolunteerMatch membership. If you do not know how to access your library's account, contact Carla Lehn at [clehn@califa.org](mailto:clehn@califa.org) [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)
- World Education: organization provides training and technical assistance in literacy, workplace, health and HIV and AIDS education around the world. [www.worlded.org](http://www.worlded.org)

#### Volunteer Management Resources

- Energize, Inc.: [www.energizeinc.com](http://www.energizeinc.com)
- National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government (NAVPLG): [www.navplg.org](http://www.navplg.org)

#### Adult Education and Literacy Publishers

- Curriculum Associates: [www.curriculumassociates.com](http://www.curriculumassociates.com)

- Grassroots Press: [www.grassrootspublishing.com](http://www.grassrootspublishing.com)
- New Readers Press\*: [www.newreaderspress.com](http://www.newreaderspress.com)  
Note: ProLiteracy members receive a discount on New Readers Press materials
- Paxen Publishing: <https://www.paxenpublishing.com/adult-education/>

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q1: How do I send a question or a comment to the CLLS listserv?**

A: Address your email to [CLLS@lists.libraryliteracy.org](mailto:CLLS@lists.libraryliteracy.org)

**Q2: Can I use CLLS funding to attend conferences?**

A: It depends on where the conference is held. CLLS funds cannot be used for out-of-state travel. They can, however, be used for conferences and meetings within California.

**Q3: I still have questions. How can I learn about running my library literacy program?**

A: Your best resource will be your regional literacy network. Attend the meetings. Meet your colleagues. Visit their programs. Ask questions. There are certainly many "moving pieces" to running a library-based literacy program, but know you are surrounded by a literacy family that wants you to succeed and are willing to respond to your inquiries and calls for help.

**Q4: What database can I use to organize my statistics?**

A: The California State Library does not require programs to use specific software to collect and manage data. Some of the systems used by library literacy programs include: Access (Microsoft Office), America Learns ([www.americalearns.net](http://www.americalearns.net)), Excel Spreadsheets (Microsoft Office), Filemaker Pro ([www.filemaker.com](http://www.filemaker.com)), Laces ([www.literacypro.com](http://www.literacypro.com)), Salesforce ([www.salesforce.org](http://www.salesforce.org)). These vary in ease of use and cost. Talk with other program staff to learn more about the pros and cons of what they use.

**Q5: How long do I need to keep program records?**

A: The California State Library asks programs to retain documents related to the literacy program for five years (not counting the current year). Library literacy staff should also check with their library administration for local requirements.

**Q6: How long does it take for a learner to complete the program?**

A: There are many variables that affect the answer to this question: what literacy level the learning begins with, how much time they can devote to study, what their goals are, etc. Some can fill in missing pieces from their understanding and learn quickly – in as little as 3-4 months; others will take some years to gain the skills to meet their goals. Many programs ask learners and tutors to participate for at least six months so they can get the hang of tutoring and begin to see progress.

**Q7: Can I charge learners a fee to participate in the program?**

A: No, services to adult learners are provided free of charge. That said, do keep them in mind if you conduct fundraising events. Learners may want to make donations to the program or be involved in soliciting support.

**Q8: If I have money left over at the end of the year, can I use it the following year?**

A: No. Any funds that have not been expended or encumbered by June 30 each year must be returned to the state. Please notify state library staff early in **the calendar**

**year** if you believe you won't be able to spend all your grant funds. We will help to reallocate those funds with other library literacy programs. However, we must receive the funds by the end of March to be able to reallocate them effectively. We strongly prefer that your funds are expended by your program and not returned to the state.

**Q9: Who is eligible to take part in my literacy program?**

**A:** Adults who are eligible to receive adult literacy services:

- Are 16 years or older and not concurrently enrolled in high school;
- Seek literacy services for themselves and do the intake interview in English;
- Have completed the intake interview and have been assessed for basic literacy levels; and
- Have established one or more personal literacy goals.

Families that are eligible to receive family literacy services:

- Have one or more family members enrolled in California Library Literacy Services; or
- Include an adult with low literacy skills who is eligible to be, but not yet, enrolled in California Library Literacy Services.