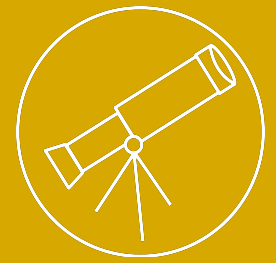


Adult Literacy and Life Skills

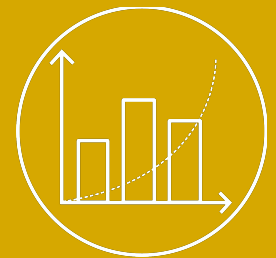
The New Haven Adult and Continuing Education Program (NHACEP) reported in 2014 that 17,416 adults, 18 years and over, did not have a high school diploma, and that 7,734 adults did not speak English well. Despite those statistics, fewer than 5,000 residents enrolled in basic and high school education classes that year and fewer than 3,000 in ESL classes.¹ Literacy is defined as both task-based and skills-based. The task-based definition of literacy focuses on the everyday literacy tasks an adult can and cannot perform; skills-based literacy focuses on the knowledge and skills an adult must possess in order to perform these tasks.²

Improving adult literacy rates in New Haven will help improve outcomes across all sectors by empowering residents to utilize the network of coordinated services being built by the CTP, by preparing residents to attain better employment opportunities, by supporting residents' health literacy so they can be active participants in their healthcare and wellness, and by enabling parents to engage in their children's education. The CTP will draw on the Skill-Up campaign developed by New Paradigms LLC and the Capital Region Adult Literacy Plan, developed by Capital Workforce Partners in Hartford, CT, to move residents through a literacy pipeline towards employment, civic engagement, and personal fulfillment in life and society. Residents will be able to enter the pipeline at any point, whether they are high school graduates trying to gain advanced literacy and job skills to secure a better job, speakers of another language trying to move from beginning to intermediate ESL literacy so they can fill out rental applications, or parents trying to move from intermediate to advanced literacy so they can help with their children's homework. The CTP will expand the capacity of existing adult education programs; their outreach will be extended to include New Haven's homeless and reentry populations. These programs will utilize new and innovative models, such as work-based education curricula, that are enriched with 21st century career competencies and life skills and combined with whole-family literacy programs.



Vision:

All adults achieve high school literacy and have the life skills they need to succeed in careers and participate in their communities



2020 Targets:

Literacy:

Increase literacy to high school level for 2,500 residents

ESOL:

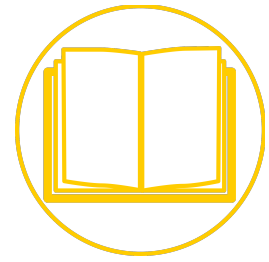
Expand ESOL programming by 500 students

Life skills:

Increase financial literacy for 2500 residents

“Basic Literacy” indicates skills necessary to perform simple and everyday literacy activities. “Below Basic” indicates no more than the most simple and concrete literacy skills. Gains in literacy will be measured by progress from “Below Basic” to “Basic Literacy”

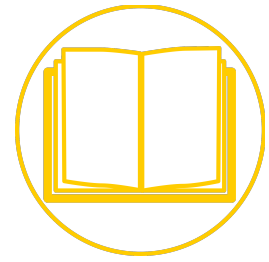
Strategy Roadmap: Adult Literacy



Goal: All New Haven adults achieve high school literacy and/or English proficiency

		Strategies		
		Launch the Skill-Up campaign, using existing and new resources to bring innovative, effective literacy programs to New Haven adults	Partner with re-entry, workforce training, and homeless services to identify and enroll low literacy adults	Expand ESOL programming
Need				
Citywide	<p>30% of the adults in New Haven are at the lowest literacy levels. By 2018, 65% of jobs in CT will require post-secondary education.³</p> <p>7,734 adults do not speak English well, a factor that is highly associated with intergenerational poverty.</p> <p>58% of city residents who tested at the Workforce Alliance’s One Stop Career Center in 2013 were at or below a 6th grade literacy level.⁴</p>	<p>Increase New Haven’s adult literacy rate (as defined by number of residents with 12th grade literacy level) by 1% (532 residents) over each of the next five years and connect those residents to employment, college, or training</p>	<p>Enroll 100 new adults in literacy programs specifically from these populations facing challenges</p>	<p>Enroll 500 more limited-English adults annually in ESOL programs</p>
Equity Focus	<p><i>Adults lacking high school literacy levels and/or basic English proficiency are highly concentrated in six low opportunity neighborhoods</i></p>	<p><i>Extensive outreach in concentrated low literacy neighborhoods by the Skill-Up campaign, conducted by culturally sensitive neighborhood residents and volunteers</i></p>	<p><i>Targeted outreach to formerly incarcerated residents, chronically unemployed residents, and residents in the homeless system</i></p>	<p><i>Extensive outreach in neighborhoods with high concentrations of limited-English speakers, conducted by culturally sensitive neighborhood residents and program staff</i></p>
2016: First Year Action Steps		<p>Develop agreement on definitions of literacy levels and goals for each level</p> <p>Engage homeless and reentry initiatives to expand literacy programming in their work with residents</p> <p>Pilot whole-family literacy program at New Haven Public Library branch that brings adult literacy programs and child literacy programs under one roof</p> <p>Coordinate with the Mayor’s Reading Commission to identify strategies and best practices for promoting whole-family literacy</p>		<p>Connect residents with ESOL needs to Skill-Up campaign</p> <p>Coordinate with the Mayor’s Reading Commission to identify strategies and best practices for engaging and serving New Haven’s ESOL residents</p>

Strategy Roadmap: Life Skills



Goal: All New Haven adults acquire basic financial literacy and life skills

		Strategies	
Need		Incorporate life skills and civic responsibility into job training programs so adults are prepared to hold a job and participate in the community	Integrate life skills training into K-12 and youth development programming in the community so youth are entering adulthood prepared
Citywide	More than 50% of 2014 enrollees in the NHACEP said that they wanted to improve “basic skills” and become better equipped to access “community services.” ⁵ 82% of NHACEP Adult Basic Education enrollees functioned below intermediate level in math; almost 100% functioned below adult secondary level. ⁶	Launch a “Skill-Up New Haven” job training program that also teaches life skills and civic responsibility, and enroll a minimum of 500 students annually	Establish life skills training program in 50 organizations serving New Haven youth
Equity Focus	Adults lacking high school level numeracy skills are overrepresented in low opportunity neighborhoods.	Extensive outreach in concentrated low opportunity neighborhoods by the Skill-Up campaign, conducted by culturally sensitive neighborhood residents and other volunteers	
2016: First Year Action Steps		Identify and coordinate all organizations and agencies providing basic math and life skills programming	Develop a sample curriculum and pilot in 5 programs