



ProLiteracy[®]

Every adult has a right to literacy.



Changing Lives Through Literacy



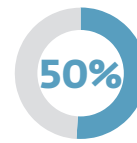
U.S. Adult Literacy Facts

U.S. Facts

**43
Million**

More than 43 million adults in the United States cannot read, write, or do basic math above a third-grade level.¹

Member Services



50% of ProLiteracy member programs put students on a waiting list due to demand exceeding program capacity.²



Less than 10% of adults in need are receiving services.²

The Cost of Low Literacy

**\$2.2
Trillion**

Bringing all adults to the equivalent of a sixth-grade reading level would generate an additional \$2.2 trillion in annual income for the country.³

**\$106-238
Billion**

It is estimated between \$106–\$238 billion in health care costs a year are linked to low adult literacy skills.⁴

**3X
The Earnings**

Workers who have less education than a high school diploma have the lowest median weekly earnings (\$592), three times less than the highest level of education.⁵

English Language Learners

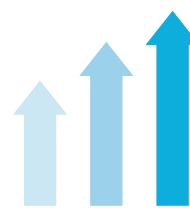


One-in-Five

The U.S. has the world's largest immigrant population, holding one-in-five of the world's immigrants.⁶

**53%
Proficient**

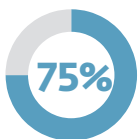
Among immigrants only half (53%) are proficient English speakers.⁷



103 Million

By 2065, immigrants and their descendants are projected to increase the U.S. population by 103 million people.⁸

Incarceration



75% of state incarcerated individuals did not complete high school or can be classified as low literate.¹⁰



Incarcerated individuals who participate in correctional education programs are **43% less likely to recidivate** than inmates who do not.¹¹

Family Literacy

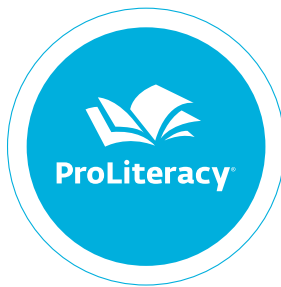


A mother's reading skill is the greatest determinant of her children's future academic success, outweighing other factors, such as neighborhood and family income.⁹

Our Impact

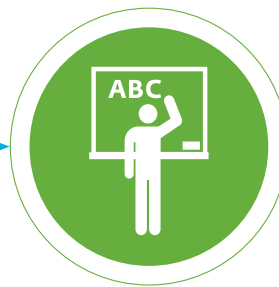
We support **adult education programs** and **instructors** who serve **adult learners** by providing:

- Funding and Professional Development
- Instructional Tools and Resources
- Research and Advocacy



\$12.6M
in total revenue

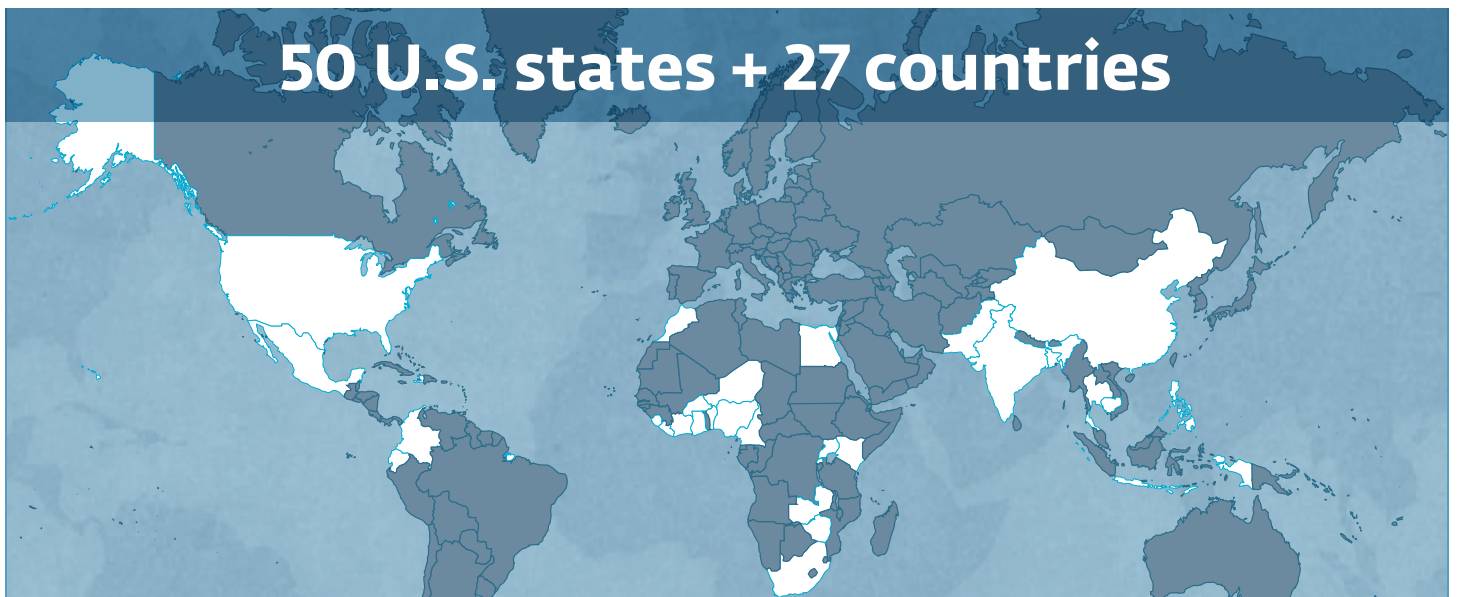
75%
of spending on
programs



5,000+
adult education
programs served

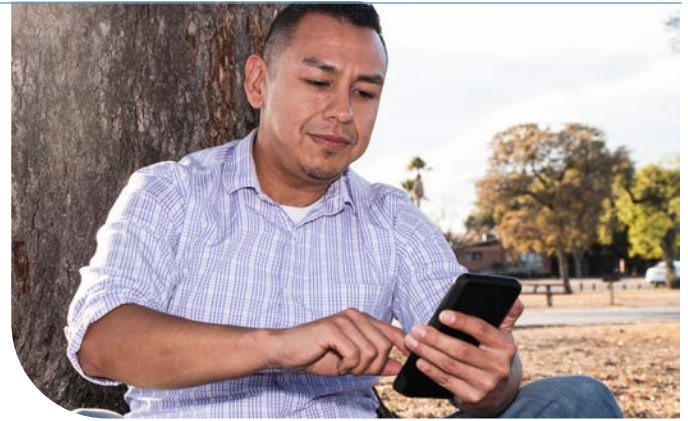


740K+
adult learners
supported



Funding Opportunities

Adult education is historically underfunded, leaving students without access to the education they seek and leaving classrooms without sufficient quality materials. ProLiteracy helps adult education programs build capacity and serve more students through:



These cash and in-kind grants, funded through individual, corporate, and foundation support, offer supplemental funding so that programs can focus their energy on providing more adults with the services they need. Combined, these three funds supported the field in fiscal year 2022 with nearly \$1 million in grants.

Literacy Opportunity Fund Supports New Program for Afghan Evacuees

The International Institute of New England (IINE) is one of the largest resettlement agencies in New England. As immigrants and refugees come to the institute, they enroll in an intensive 15-week English language program that equips these adults with the language skills and cultural knowledge needed to navigate their new communities and enter the U.S. workforce.

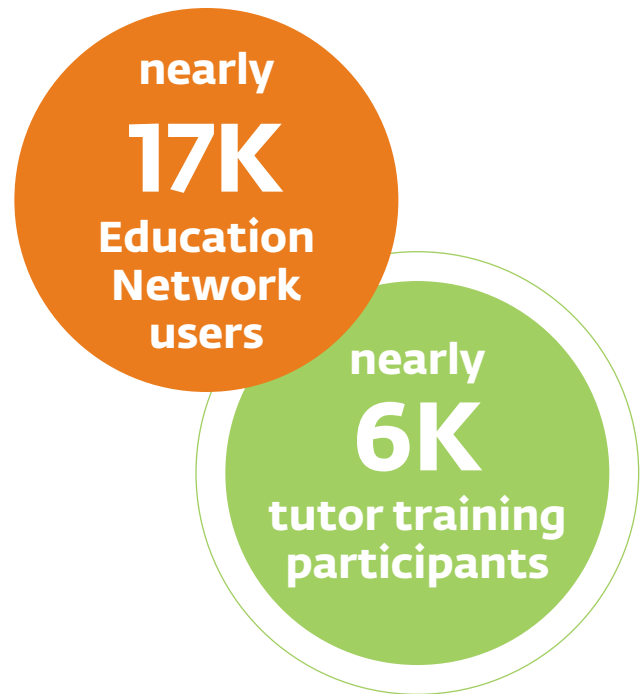
Recently 60 Afghan evacuees arrived who did not have access to literacy education in Afghanistan. Our Literacy Opportunity Fund gave IINE a \$6,000 grant to add staff to lead a new English and Native Language Literacy initiative. The class combines beginner-level English language development with basic reading, writing, and digital literacy instruction in the languages of Dari and Pashto, led by volunteers proficient in these languages.



Professional Development Opportunities

Ensuring the field has access to professional development opportunities that strengthen programs' instructional practices is central to ProLiteracy's mission and is one of our founding principles. Presenting paid instructors, volunteer tutors, coaches, and administrators training, best practices, and new teaching techniques enables them to serve more students with better outcomes.

A large portion of our professional development programming is offered through ProLiteracy's Education Network, a comprehensive collection of online courses and resources for adult education practitioners.



Instructional Tools and Resources



Through our publishing division, New Readers Press, ProLiteracy supports the instructional needs and approaches of adult education providers. This year, nearly 25% of the revenue from the sale of New Readers Press products goes directly to support the work ProLiteracy does for the field. New Readers Press is continuously developing new print and digital products to support and respond to the needs of adult education programs.



A photograph of two people, an older man and a woman, standing together. The man on the left is wearing a grey suit jacket over a white shirt and glasses. He has a white beard and is holding a blue and silver award. The woman on the right is wearing a dark blazer over a patterned top and is smiling. The background is dark. A blue vertical bar is on the left side of the page.

Student Hero Recognized for Outstanding Commitment to Learning

John H. Taylor was recognized at the 2022 ProLiteracy Conference on Adult Education for earning the Dollar General Student of the Year Award. John is 76 years old, the seventh of 14 children, and the son of sharecroppers. As soon as he could pull a plow behind a mule, he was whisked out of the classroom and sent into the fields.

In 2013, at 68 years old, John decided to go back to school. He couldn't read or write, but he knew it wasn't too late for him. John found a one-on-one tutor and adult basic education classes at the ProLiteracy Member organization Adult Literacy League (ALL), where the timing is always perfect for adults to reclaim their right to a quality education. Now, John is not only a student who has made significant progress, but he also is a board member serving on ALL's Board of Directors. He represents the

students' point of view and makes sure that all agency decisions are made with the students' best interests in mind.

Since entering the adult education program, John reads and writes for pleasure. He has voted, purchased insurance, opened a bank account, filled out medical forms with ease, and increased his overall self-esteem. Based on the hand John was dealt in life, he is someone who should've been doomed to fail. He wanted to be more than a sharecropper's son. He built himself into the tenacious man he is today through hard work, discipline, and self-respect. John is an attentive student and an engaged board member. He is kind, thoughtful, wise, gregarious, and always eager to learn more. John is everyone's hero at ALL.

Pictured L-R: John H. Taylor, Lindsey Basler (Dollar General Literacy Foundation)

Advocacy

A key part of our mission is to advocate for adult education and literacy initiatives to increase awareness and gain financial and public support for adult educators and students nationwide.

Year after year we accomplish this by:

- Sending action alerts to the field about important legislation that impacts adult education,
- Publishing research that illustrates the economic impact of low literacy,
- Producing ads, articles, and videos to run in national and regional media,
- Leading through initiatives of our Public Policy and Advocacy Board Committee, and
- Participating with the National Coalition for Literacy's efforts to advocate for federal funding.



ProLiteracy also is a founding member of the Adult Literacy and Learning Impact Network (ALL IN), a group of stakeholders and leaders in the field that will lead the implementation of the National Action Plan for Adult Literacy that aims to drive change and address the systematic challenges of adult and family literacy in the U.S.

Research

ProLiteracy provides free research reports and publications to the field to ensure every service provider, practitioner, and policy maker has equal access to the latest information on adult learners and evidence to support instructional practices.

Adult Literacy Education: The International Journal of Literacy, Language, and Numeracy, is an online, peer-reviewed research journal published by ProLiteracy twice a year. It informs practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and funders about best practices in adult literacy, numeracy, and English language education in publicly funded, community and volunteer-based programs in a wide range of contexts.

“ProLiteracy was one of the first resources that I used. I went online and I was able to read the white papers and all of the research, and it was presented in this really easy-to-understand way...”

—Kim Karesh, Nashville, TN

Keeping Our Momentum Going

ProLiteracy sees the future as an opportunity to grow. Moving forward, our work is guided by four strategic goals: to expand our education resource offerings, to provide professional development opportunities and share new and best practices, to increase our advocacy reach, and to ensure organizational sustainability.



Workforce development and English language learning are two of the biggest needs. We have researched the latest trends, consulted experts, and met with practitioners to confidently develop high-quality print and digital resources that will increase students' success.



We have always been committed to providing the best professional development, and we want to continue increasing the capacity and effectiveness of adult education programs. By developing new research-backed virtual trainings and on-demand coaching sessions we can offer ongoing support. And we can leverage our Education Network platform to reach more instructors and provide more students with better support.



We will help increase funding for the field by building relationships with public entities and widely sharing impact stories and increasing our data collection efforts.

Our future growth is made possible through the commitment of our supporters. Because of you, there's no doubt that we can lift people and their communities through literacy.



ProLiteracy

Honored to be Among the Best in the Field

ProLiteracy was recognized with the Dyer Pearl Literacy Award at the Barbara Bush Foundation's National Summit on Adult Literacy. The honor is reserved for organizations whose work exemplifies strong and successful community collaborations; successful and/or scalable programs in family, adult, and/or child literacy; and best practices in adult literacy.

The award is named for Rebecca Dyer, a longtime adult literacy advocate and employee of the Barbara Bush Foundation. ProLiteracy, one of the four national and community-based organizations to receive the award, was honored to be recognized for our advocacy work, research, resources, and professional development.



Find more ways to give at ProLiteracy.org.

ProLiteracy believes every adult has a right to literacy. We champion the power of literacy to improve the lives of adults, families, and communities. We envision a world in which everyone can read, write, and use technology to lead healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives. We can't do it alone. Thank you for your commitment to changing lives and communities through the power of adult literacy.

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY WITH PROLITERACY. Planned giving provides you the peace of mind to know that your future is planned and gives ProLiteracy the resources to plan for the future. Contact Amanda Wilson at **awilson@proliteracy.org** to find out how.



ONLINE

Make a one-time donation or set up a recurring gift using our fast and secure online form. To donate, visit ProLiteracy.org/donate.



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