

LITERACY NEWS



FLORIDA LITERACY COALITION, INC.

FLORIDA'S NEWSLETTER FOR LITERACY TUTORS,
TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPPORTERS

Number 126

SUMMER 2010

Volunteers...A New Role in Career Advisement!

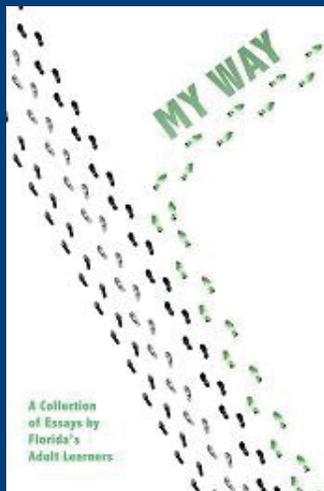
By Zelda Rogers, Florida Department of Education

Florida's adult education system serves more than 372,000 students (based on 2008-2009 data) through our district and college adult education programs. Thousands more are served through community-based organizations that offer a variety of literacy services for families and other individuals. These students represent a large number of our population that either need basic skills or English language skills.

In many parts of the state, programs are faced with growing enrollments as many people have lost their jobs and are seeking ways to build their basic skills in order to improve their earning potential. At the same time, most programs have learned to operate with budget cuts and fewer resources. Fortunately, we have many people that want to give their time and expertise to help others with their educational goals. It is more important than ever that we reach out to those that would like to be involved with adult education as volunteers and/or tutors. Not only can volunteers assist in tutoring students with reading, writing, and math but they can also play a vital role in motivating students to stay in the program and earn their high school credential (diploma or GED).

One of the priorities for adult education this past year has been postsecondary transitions. Eleven grants were awarded to sites to develop and/or improve their transition programs/services. The ultimate goal of these grants is to increase the number of students that enter postsecondary education, and to reduce the number of adult education students that need remedial college prep classes. We must champion the message that a person needs at least one year of postsecondary education to upgrade their potential in the 21st century workplace.

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New Release 2010 Adult Learner Essay Book

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Local Health Literacy Grants Awarded for Second Year with the Support of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida and the Florida Literacy Coalition would like to congratulate the following 16 ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and family literacy programs in Florida awarded one-year grants of \$5,000 each. The funds will be used to support a network of health literacy projects providing adult students with important information about health and nutrition while learning English at the same time.

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September is Literacy Month

Mark your calendars! September 8, 2010, is International Literacy Day, and the entire month of September is recognized as Adult and Family Literacy Month here in Florida. These are great opportunities to raise literacy awareness while celebrating your organization's accomplishments, so start planning now!

These are some popular ways literacy organizations have celebrated Literacy Month:

- Host a student/tutor picnic
- Identify local speaking engagement opportunities for your students
- Organize an awards event to recognize volunteers and students
- Coordinate a student trip to the local library to get library cards
- Host a community literacy fair

Florida State Parks are also continuing to support literacy by recognizing September as **Florida State Parks Literacy Month**. In the past, numerous events were sponsored in state parks emphasizing the importance of reading with a focus on the environmental, cultural and historical significance of the local area. Official details for 2010 will

International Literacy Day

Since 1967, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has designated September 8 as International Literacy Day.

Each year, the UNESCO Secretary General issues a statement and five awards honoring outstanding local, regional and national literacy programs.

be released soon. Contact your local state park to inquire about partnership and promotional opportunities. To find the state park nearest you visit www.FloridaStateParks.org/FindAPark.

Additional ideas about how to celebrate literacy month are available on the FLC website, www.floraliteracy.org, on the Literacy Awareness page.

FLC is able to promote your event on its online statewide calendar! Simply email Erin Balleine at balleine@floraliteracy.org, with your event information.

Volunteers...A New Role in Career Advisement!

(continued from Cover)

Over the next program year, adult education programs will be developing processes to ensure that adult education students are exploring careers/career clusters/career pathways and developing a career plan. Tutors, in many cases, are helping students to learn to read or improve their reading skills. These personal relationships can play a key role in helping adult education students to envision the future, set career goals and develop a plan to reach those goals. Studies have shown that there is a positive impact on student achievement when the learner can set career goals and understand how education can help them to achieve their goals. We encourage you to make career advisement a part of the assistance offered to students.

The adult education staff will be identifying resources that can be used in helping students to explore and plan for careers. These resources will be available through the Florida Literacy Coalition, Florida TechNet, ACE of Florida, and the Department of Education website. Meanwhile, Florida CHOICES is a free online resource at www.flchoices.org. Look for additional information by the end of the summer.

Submit Your News!

Has your organization received funding or planned a major public event? Do you know something that would benefit other adult and family literacy practitioners?

FLC invites you to submit short articles and other news items related to funding, events, staff, hot topics, research and more. Contact Yari Payne at payney@floraliteracy.org.

ESL TUTOR TRAINING

When: Saturday, July 17
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

ESL: Learn to tutor an adult for whom English is a Second Language. There is a \$30.00 charge to cover the cost of the books.

Where: Ephiphany Episcopal Church
Cape Coral, FL

To Register: Pre-register by calling the Literacy Volunteers office at (239) 415-3621.



TUTOR TRAINING

When: Saturday, July 31
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Palm Beach Atlantic University
901 S. Flagler Dr.
West Palm Beach, FL
Rinker Building Room 1305

To Register: A \$5 registration fee includes the tutor workbook for the class. Call the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County at (800) 273-1030

“WORKING WITH STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES” by guest speaker Dorothy Abelson

When: Saturday, August 7
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Where: Adult Literacy League
345 W. Michigan St.
Orlando, FL

To Register: Call (407) 422-1540

ESL TUTOR TRAINING

When: Saturday, August 21
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Learn to tutor an adult for whom English is a Second Language. There is a \$30 charge for books.

Where: Literacy Volunteers of Lee County, Lehigh Acres, FL

To Register: Pre-register by calling the Literacy Volunteers office at (239) 415-3621.

GREAT GROWN-UP SPELLING BEE, LITERACY COALITION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

When: Thursday, September 16
6:00 p.m.

Where: Harriet Himmel Theater at City Place, Palm Beach, FL

To Register: <http://www.literacypbc.org/events/561/>

ACE OF FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE: IN STEP TOGETHER FOR 20 YEARS

When: Monday, September 27 -
Friday, September 20

Where: Hilton Orlando
6001 Destination Pkwy
Orlando, FL

To Register: www.aceofflorida.org

To submit events for the upcoming issues of the *Literacy News*, as well as the calendar at www.floridaliteracy.org, please forward information about your event to Erin Balleine at balleine@floridaliteracy.org.

Tutor Tips

ASK ME A QUESTION

Purpose: To give learners practice formulating and writing questions.

Preparation time: None

Materials: A piece of paper and pencil for each student, slips of paper.

Procedure:

1. Give each learner a slip of paper and have them write their name on it. Have them fold the paper once and give it to you.
2. Each learner draws one name from the slips of paper. If they pick their own, they should put it back and take another.
3. Tell them to think of 3-5 questions they would like to ask that person.
4. Have them write the questions on a piece of paper, leaving space for answers.
5. Have them give their questions to the person they are intended for.
6. Have that person write a response to each question and give the paper back to the person who wrote the questions. He or she can read it to the class.

Source: Minnesota Literacy Council, http://www.themlc.org/Tutor_Tips.html

Florida Literacy Conference Offered a Wide Range of Opportunities

The 26th annual Florida Literacy Conference, held in May on Captiva Island, was attended by more than 550 adult and family literacy practitioners, volunteers and students. With more than 70 sessions, events and keynote presentations, many participants shared how the conference provided a great opportunity to network and learn from one another.

The opening general session speaker Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier, Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education for the U.S. Department of Education, discussed President Barack Obama's efforts to improve the basic skills and employment outcomes of individuals, particularly those from the most vulnerable populations.

Adult Learner Day was attended by more than 80 students. The most popular Adult Learner Day session this year was Melissa Padgett's *Fun Ways to Improve Health Literacy*; nevertheless, all the sessions offered to adult learners were well received.

The Florida Literacy Awards Banquet provided a great opportunity to recognize the outstanding contributions of businesses, programs and individuals working in support of literacy. The keynote speaker for the evening was author Sharon Robinson who shared several wonderful stories about growing up as the daughter of baseball legend, Jackie Robinson.

The Conference ended on a high-note with a performance by ESL students participating in the Fort Lauderdale based Arts Train Program. Under the direction of Darby Hayes, these students demonstrated how the visual and performing arts can be used to inspire creativity and enhance English language instruction.

The following individuals, companies and organizations were recognized at the Florida Literacy Awards Banquet for their outstanding contributions to literacy.

Outstanding Business Partner:
Bank of America-Central Florida
Nominated by the Joyce Whidden,
Adult Literacy League, Orlando

Bank of America's involvement with Adult Literacy League (ALL) began in 2006 when it awarded the organization a \$200,000 grant and an invitation to participate in the company's executive and emerging leadership training. The company has also provided ALL with volunteer trainings on their "Money Matters" financial literacy curriculum. Currently, more than 50 ALL tutors assist their students with financial literacy in addition to their reading, writing and English language proficiency.

Accepting the award for Bank of America- Central Florida were Barbara Travis and Carla Brosy, two Sanibel-based Bank of America representatives.

Portraits of Literacy Contest Results

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words and we've got the evidence to prove it! The Florida Literacy Coalition recently conducted a photo contest, Portraits of Literacy. More than 150 photos were submitted from photographers throughout Florida and around the world.

Finalist photos were displayed at the Florida Literacy Conference where attendees voted for the winning photo. The winning photo was announced during the Florida Literacy Awards Banquet on May 6. Congratulations to Chetan Soni for his award winning photo entitled "Education Together." Thanks to all of the individuals who submitted photos for the contest. All semifinalist and finalist photos are still available to view on our website.

Special thanks to our sponsors Cruise Industry Charitable Foundation and Pentax.



Winning Photo: Education Together

Outstanding Media Partner:
The Gainesville Sun
Nominated by Terri Hutchinson,
Alachua County Library District

The Gainesville Sun is a driving force behind the Gainesville area's annual Family Literacy Festival and regularly organizes book drives benefitting hundreds of low-income families. Additionally, the newspaper provides the Alachua County Literacy Network with a regular meeting space, administrative support and provides the Alachua County Library's Literacy Program with complimentary advertising for upcoming volunteer tutor trainings.

Accepting the award was Kristin Bash, marketing coordinator of *The Gainesville Sun*.

Outstanding Literacy Volunteer:

Cherie Byrnes

Nominated by Susan Mutschler,
Citrus County Library System

Cherie Byrnes was recognized for her overall support and involvement with the Citrus County Library's Adult Literacy Education Program. Wearing many hats - volunteer tutor, tutor trainer, public speaker and advocate - Byrnes is an invaluable asset to their emerging program. Her involvement in literacy began many years ago in New York, and when she learned of the program in Citrus County she jumped at the chance to participate in a tutor training. She was then matched with a learner she was uniquely qualified to help; the learner was deaf and Byrnes communicated using various methods including American Sign Language. Since then, Byrnes has furthered her tutor training and is now a ProLiteracy nationally certified tutor trainer.

Her efforts didn't stop with tutoring. Byrnes was instrumental in launching the library's first English language classes and has assisted in developing literacy curriculum. As the president of the Friends of the Homosassa Public Library, Byrnes regularly speaks to groups about literacy including to the local board of commissioners.

Excellence in Education:

Marion County Literacy Council

Nominated by Lisa Varner,
President of the MCLC Board of Directors

In 1999, the Marion County Literacy Council (MCLC) was established in the garage of its founder. Since its humble beginning, MCLC has grown into an established and well-regarded community-based organization. After becoming a United Way agency in 2004, the Council hired an executive director and later a full-time program director. Together,

over the past two years, the staff and the board of directors worked to double the size of the program, serving more than 150 students in 2009, while sustaining a dedicated volunteer base of more than 80 tutors. With this expansion, MCLC relocated to a new office which also accommodates a new computer lab for students. Currently MCLC is working towards a ProLiteracy national accreditation for its thriving ESOL and adult basic literacy programs.

Accepting the award for MCLC were Karen Hill, executive director, and Marisol Sepulveda, program director.

Flight for Freedom Award:

Nancy Tamayo de Galvez

Nominated by Trish Rowland,
S.B. Idea, a Palm Beach family literacy program

Tamayo de Galvez was honored for her great strides in learning English as a second language to make a better life for herself.

Tamayo de Galvez immigrated to the United States from Mexico in 1995. In 2007, when her son entered kindergarten, she felt her inability to speak English was a direct hindrance to her child's education. She joined the Parent Power Family Literacy Academy and had incredible success improving her literacy skills. As her skills grew, so did her community involvement. She has volunteered hundreds of hours at her son's school, served on a local adult learner leadership board and is a strong advocate for the Literacy Academy with other local programs. Tamayo de Galvez is continuing her education at Kaiser Career College pursuing a career as a medical assistant and is a role model for her son and her peers.

Accepting the award for Ms. Tamayo de Galvez was Julia Clark, Tamayo de Galvez's tutor.

Florida Literacy Awards



2010 Florida Literacy Award Recipients (L-R): Kristin Bash, Gainesville Sun; Margaret Anne Wheeler; Cherie Byrnes; Marisol Sepulveda and Karen Hill, Marion County Literacy Council; Carla Brosy and Barbara Travis, Bank of America-Sanibel; Julia Clark, on behalf of Nancy Tamayo de Galvez

Florida Literacy Awards

(continued from page 5)

Mary J. Brogan Leadership Award:

Margaret Anne Wheeler

Nominated by Pamela P. Craven, READ Polk

Margaret Anne Wheeler has acquired a reputation as Polk County's "literacy queen." For the past two decades, Wheeler has been at the heart of the county's literacy network. Her leadership roles have included teaching, administrating and acting as a role model to expand adult literacy efforts in the county.

In the 1990s, as the Director of the Lakeland-based Center for Adult Literacy, she helped to create literacy programs in the workplace. The Center, which marketed and promoted literacy efforts in a three county area, recruited and enrolled thousands of students into local education and literacy programs. She co-founded READ Polk, the county's coordinating council of adult and family literacy programs, and is a ProLiteracy certified master trainer. Currently employed as the community involvement coordinator for Polk County Public Schools, Wheeler supervises 30,000 intergenerational volunteers and serves on the Florida Education Commissioner's Community Involvement Council.

A special thanks the conference planning committee, volunteers, presenters, and the following sponsors for their support and generosity for the 2010 Florida Literacy Conference.

Platinum Level

Florida Department of Education, Division of
Career and Adult Education

Dollar General Literacy Foundation

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida

Publix Super Markets Charities

Gold Level

Florida TechNet

Silver Level

Walmart



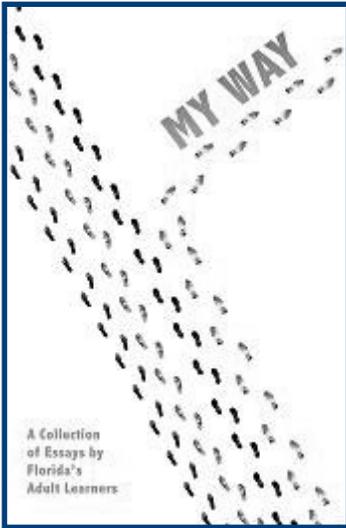
Save the Date!

27th Annual Florida Literacy Conference

May 4-6, 2011

Lake Mary Marriott, Lake Mary

2010 Adult Learner Essay Book *My Way* Has Been Released!



My Way was unveiled during the annual meeting at the 2010 Florida Literacy Conference on Captiva Island.

Congratulations to the writers, teachers and programs with essays selected for publication in *My Way*. Special thanks to Mary Wheeler, Antonio Del Toro, Cosimo Bamonte, Gaetane Philemon and John J. Vargas for reading their essays during the FLC Annual Meeting.

This year's publication is comprised of 268 entries and is available to download on-line at our website, www.floridaliteracy.org. A limited number of hard copy books are also available. If you would like to have a copy as a resource for your program, please contact Bryan McCormack at mccormackb@floridaliteracy.org.

This book was made possible through a grant from the Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education.

Fundraising in Tough Economic Times

The downturn in the economy is the number one concern for many organizations. A failing economy results in the loss of fundraising revenue, which is the driving force behind non-profit development and sustainability. A recent poll conducted by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) found record lows in the number of charities reporting strong fundraising returns in the past year. This downturn has created substantial setbacks in non-profit development and sustainability at a time when there is an increased demand for services. Non-profits should be aware of a few emerging trends in fund development.

Decrease in Corporate Giving — Corporations have been trending towards more cause-related marketing. Non-profits should think in terms of developing corporate partnerships, allowing shared marketing strategies that have a mutual benefit for both non-profit and for-profit organizations.

The Recession — Just 43 percent of charities raised more money in 2009 than in 2008, marking it the worst year for charitable fundraising in a decade, according to the AFP. Faced with steep declines in tax revenue, an increasing number of states and localities are cutting back on education and social service spending while also considering eliminating various tax exemptions for non-profit groups. One ray of hope is that donations to the nation's biggest charities were up in the first quarter of 2010, compared with the same time in 2009, a sign that non-profit groups may be starting to make a recovery.

Email Outreach – As more non-profits begin to solicit donors through email, your subscribers will be moving quickly to sort through the “junk” emails and find the emails that truly appeal to them. Create catchy subject lines with relevant and captivating messages so that your email will make the cut.

A common mistake made by fundraisers is to view donors as making a financial purchase. Fundraisers should pitch their donors with a carefully laid out plan and goal for how the donated money will be spent and used. Donors also like to hear from someone who has faith in the organization; someone who can instill confidence in the donor. Nonprofits should be able to answer these three questions to possible donors:

- 1) Why does the organization deserve a contribution?
- 2) Why financial support is critical for continuing the organization's mission?
- 3) Why donors should care?
- 4) What difference does the contribution make?

Being able to answer these questions may help you to secure funding in an increasingly competitive environment. A little time invested in a targeted fundraising approach based on good data and a clear message can reap dividends down the road.

Health Literacy Grants Awarded for Second Year

(continued from Cover)



Shown, from left to right: Darlene Kostrub, Reine Price, Irma Mercado, Angela Santos, Stephanie Howe, Sharon Hackney, Nelly Ford, Melissa Padgett, Cheryl Shaver, Pam Fulton, Melissa Berlin, Jone Williams, CaSandra Bevis, Greg Smith, Anne Marie Dunahoo, Kathy Severson, Naomi Soto, Anala Singh, Amy Hunter.



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Florida**

Grant Recipients

Adult Learning Center Osceola
Adult Literacy League, Inc.
DeSoto County Education Foundation
Florida State College at Jacksonville
HELP of Fort Meade, Inc.
Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County
Literacy Volunteers of America - Monroe County
Literacy Volunteers of Lee County
Manatee Technical Institute
Miami-Dade College Foundation
Pinellas County School District
S.B. Idea, Inc.
Sarasota YMCA
South Florida Community College, Hardee County
South Florida Community College, Highland County
Three Rivers Regional Library System

The health literacy grants were officially presented on May 5, during the 26th annual Florida Literacy Conference in Captiva, Fla. During this conference, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida also sponsored a literacy track focused solely on health literacy.

The Florida Health Literacy Grant Initiative, funded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, and operated by the Florida Literacy Coalition, is a three-year project committing a total of \$360,000 to improving the health literacy level of Florida residents by supporting literacy programs with financial and technical support. As part of the initiative, the FLC provides grantees with training opportunities, inter-agency collaboration facilitation and resource forums to build upon the strengths of each individual program. "This initiative reflects Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's outstanding commitment to helping adult learners develop the skills they need to be informed health advocates for themselves and their children," said Greg Smith, executive director of FLC. "We have already seen significant results in students becoming more health literate and we really appreciate BCBSF for making it all possible."

In 2009, BCBSF and FLC awarded health literacy mini-grants to 10 organizations. This year's funding reflects a combination of new grants and renewal grants, allowing current programs to continue and build upon their ongoing efforts. "At BCBSF, we are committed to helping people and communities achieve better health," said Susan Towler, Vice President, Community Affairs, BCBSF. "By partnering with the Florida Literacy Coalition and supporting the Florida Health Literacy Grant Initiative, we are reaching more and more Floridians every day and positively impacting their health and well-being."

If you missed the opportunity to apply for the health literacy grant year, please visit the FLC website in January 2011 for proposal information and requirements. In the meantime, join our online community at www.floridahealthliteracy.ning.com. The Ning site will be used as a forum for health literacy practitioners and stakeholders to come together, access resources and share information and successes.

For more information on the health literacy initiative, please contact Naomi Soto at soton@floridaliteracy.org or (407) 246-7110 ext. 209.

Students Learn and Get Empowered with Project-Based Learning Activities

Teachers and tutors who have yet to incorporate project-based learning (PBL) may want to consider starting! PBL is a collaborative approach to teaching that allows learners to use authentic language to accomplish one or more projects. According to several studies, PBL can be more effective than traditional instruction for long-term retention and skill development. It has also proven to be particularly effective with lower-achieving students.

The best types of projects are typically those that encourage students to think beyond the classroom. When projects have an impact outside of the class, students feel part of an effort that may make a difference for others.

Other benefits for PBL include:

- Students learn and practice skills in problem solving, communication and self-management.
- Curriculum areas, thematic instruction and community issues are integrated.
- The needs of learners with varying skill levels and learning styles are met.
- Bored or indifferent students are engaged and motivated.
- Students have the opportunity to work on problems and issues relevant to their lives.

Popular PBL activities include videos, documentaries, songs or theatrical pieces, events, and pamphlets. One of the best things about PBL is that it engages students in a creative process that can go in many different directions.

The 2009-2010 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida/FLC health literacy grant recipients incorporated PBL activities into their lesson plans. Projects included cookbooks, a community health fair, health information brochures distributed across campus and even a play on the dangers

Effective project-based learning includes and encourages students to do the following:

1. Emphasize using English to accomplish project goals
2. Establish groups or teams, with a team leader to oversee and manage the team's progress
3. Brainstorm project ideas that will be effective for families, friends and both current and future students
4. Develop an action plan that that defines everyone's responsibilities and deadlines
5. Teacher and team leader should monitor progress to ensure a timely completion
6. Overall project is completed and distributed or performed

In general, it is best for project-based learning to last from two to six weeks. This will help ensure maximum effectiveness and information retention as well.

of tobacco. Samples of these projects will be posted on the FLC website in July.

Florida State College of Jacksonville had its ESOL students participate in International Women's Day and create health posters of various topics in their native language.

"Students were interested in seeing how different languages were written. That sparked more conversation with each other," said ESOL teacher Melissa Berlin. "Students were also able to describe to others what they had studied and what the posters meant in English. These students used the vocabulary being taught, and also learned non-academic skills such as working with others and outside the box thinking."

Difficult-to-Read Medicaid Forms Put Families at Risk

The disparity between Americans' health literacy skills and Medicaid health insurance provide significant barriers to coverage, according to a new study *Literacy Level of Medicaid Applications and Child Medicaid Retention Rates: Comparison Across 50 States*.

Many studies have shown that literacy-related issues affect retention in the Medicaid program. This study compared the reading level of the Medicaid renewal applications and looked at the effect of reading level on retention.

Approximately 91 percent of Medicaid renewal applications are written at or above the fifth grade reading level. However, over 40 million Americans cannot read at this level. In addition, 46 states had reading level guidelines for Medicaid information, but 46 percent of these states failed to meet their own guidelines.

With insurance coverage expanding due to the health reform

law, the expected number of people applying for Medicaid will greatly increase. Unfortunately, since caregivers struggle with necessary renewal paperwork, families are often at risk of getting dropped from coverage. This often results in poor medical care and inadequate preventative visits.

Applications from 2002 and 2008 were compared to determine Medicaid retention rates. The results were staggering. According to the study, for every grade increase in reading level there was a 47 percent risk of disenrollment. All states have readability guidelines for applications and renewal forms, but these are often ignored and dismissed. "States are simply not meeting their own guidelines," said Dr. Susmita Pati of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, who led the research. Florida did not meet any of the three literacy tests for the 2008 Medicaid renewal application. According to Florida guidelines, the Medicaid renewal application should be written at a fourth grade reading level.

Funding Opportunities

Lumina Foundation for Education

Areas of Interest: The Lumina Foundation focuses on promoting educational access and success for underserved populations, especially low-income students, first-generation college students and adult learners.

Phone: (317) 951-5300

Url: www.luminafoundation.org

Deadline: September

Green Family Foundation

Areas of Interest: The Green Family Foundation's mission is to make a positive and meaningful impact in communities both at home and abroad, with preference given to programs and organizations within Miami-Dade County, Fla. The Foundation seeks to empower underserved communities to fight the cycle of extreme poverty, leading to sustainable programs that improve lives.

Phone: (305) 905-7210

Url: www.greenff.org

Deadline: Ongoing

Alcoa Foundation

Areas of Interest: Alcoa's focus is on supporting adult education in workplace readiness skills; strengthening the education system to provide pathways to successful careers; and engaging young learners in science, math, and technology studies to build the next generation of leaders. The Foundation places a core focus on diversity and work to engage girls, women and other under-represented groups in these fields.

Phone: (412) 553-2348

Url: www.alcoa.com/global/en/community/foundation.asp

Deadline: Ongoing

Community Foundation of North Florida

Areas of Interest: The goals are to help all residents gain the knowledge and skills necessary to reach economic self-sufficiency, remain active learners, to be good parents and effective citizens in a democracy and to provide an environment in which talented individuals refine and develop their abilities.

Phone: (850) 222-2899

Email: jwatkins@cnf.org

URL: www.cfnf.org

Deadline: Ongoing

Dollar General Awards 2010 Grants

Dollar General Literacy Foundation awards funding to nonprofit organizations that provide Adult Basic Education, General Education Diploma Preparation or English As A Second Language services.

Congratulations to 2010 grant recipients from Florida including the Adult Literacy League, Florida Literacy Coalition, GROWS Literacy Council, HELP of Ft Meade, Literacy Services of Indian River, Palm Beach County Literacy Council, Sarasota County Technical Institute, the School Board of Manatee County, Presbyterian Learning Center of Tampa Bay and United Methodist Cooperative Ministries.

A special thanks to Dollar General for their generous support of literacy in Florida.

Please contact Erin Balleine, at balleine@floridaliteracy.org or (407) 246-7110 ext. 202 if your adult education/literacy program is interested in a customized search of available grants. FLC will work with you to generate a prospect list based on your preferred search criteria.

New Resources at the State Clearinghouse

Thanks to the National Institute for Literacy, the State Literacy Resource Center Clearinghouse now has the following newly available publications which are free to order.

Guide to Performance Management for Community Literacy Coalitions, is a guide that addresses how community literacy coalitions and their partner organizations can track the progress they are making to improve literacy in their communities. Although the guide focuses more on performance measurement and performance management from the perspective of community Literacy Coalitions, many of its recommendations may also be helpful to individual literacy service providers.

Basic Reading Skills and the Literacy of America's Least Literate Adults is a report focusing on the results from the FAN

(Fluency Addition to NAAL) and the ALSA (Adult Literacy Supplemental Assessment). Results from the main literacy assessment are reported as averages and as the percentage of adults in each of four literacy levels: Below Basic, Basic, Intermediate, and Proficient.

Learning to Achieve: A Review of the Research Literature on Serving Adults with Learning Disabilities was informed by an extensive literature review that serves as a foundational document reflecting the current knowledge base. The six topics covered in the literature review are: assessment, English language learners, accommodations, teaching methods, transition and impact of LD.

Check out all of our clearinghouse resource materials online at the FLC website, www.floridaliteracy.org, click on "Order Materials."

Policy Update

State Budget

The Florida State Legislature closed out its legislative session in late April by passing a \$70.5 billion budget that included cuts to education and a wide range of public services. The state budget allocation for adult and workforce education was \$369,488,374. School-district based programs were reduced by 2.1 percent or \$7.8 million. Funding for community colleges is allocated as part their total authorization which increased by 6.8 percent. The adult and workforce education budget included approximately \$21 million in one-time American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.

Legislative Studies

The Florida Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability is in the process of conducting two studies related to adult and workforce education. Areas that will be reviewed include: 1) the effectiveness of adult education programs in helping students achieve educational gains, particularly as they relate to economic self sufficiency, 2) how Florida compares to other states with regard to investment and outcomes related to adult and career/technical education, 3) the advantages and disadvantages of restructuring the state funded delivery system in such a way that adult education is offered by school districts and postsecondary and career/technical education is provided by state colleges. Results of the studies are scheduled to be released in December 2010 and January 2011.

Miami is Selected for Great Cities Initiative

The US Department of Education and the National Institute for Literacy have announced the five urban cities selected for The Great Cities Summit. The summit will address best practices for providing adult education in a series of five summits in Miami, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston.

These five cities were announced following a national competition. The Summit will include leading educators who will assess their city's adult education needs and create action plans to address them. They will also learn about available federal resources to support implementation of these plans, form supportive partnerships, establish a network for collaborative peer learning and provide opportunities to interact with federal policymakers and national experts in reading and urban education.

A major goal of the Great Cities Initiative is to support teachers in expanding their knowledge of adult reading acquisition and strengthening their teaching skills while creating policy papers that will be delivered to the current administration. Census data was used to identify the 12 largest cities in the U. S. All applications were scored against the following four criteria: 1) need, 2) context (what was already underway or planned for the near future), 3) ability to benefit, and 4) commitment to scientific-based reading research and instruction.

Helping Low-Skilled Adults Succeed in Community Colleges

Jobs for the Future has released the Breaking Through Practice Guide to help practitioners serve adults with low literacy and math levels and who want to succeed in postsecondary education.

The practice guide has four components that community colleges and other programs can adopt to help put low-skilled adults on family-sustaining incomes.

1. Accelerated learning
2. Comprehensive support services
3. Labor market payoffs
4. Aligning programs for low-skilled adults

To access this free guide go to www.jff.org/publications/education/breaking-through-practice-guide/1059

Resources

Microsoft Office for Beginners

Microsoft partnered with the state of Florida to provide FREE online training in Microsoft Windows or one of the programs in the Microsoft Office Suite. The vouchers are available through Worforce Florida offices; they are limited and time sensitive.

Link: <http://orlando.bizjournals.com/orlando/stories/2010/05/24/daily10.html?ed=20>

Free Health Flashcards

The American College of Physicians Foundation provides handy flashcards on various health topics. Flashcards come in English and Spanish, and are written at a fifth grade reading level. Best of all, these are free!

Link: <http://www.acpfoundation.org/hl/htips.htm>

College for Adults

This website will help you with career planning, college selection and the application process. The website also suggests ways to find money to pay for college, and directs you to resources to help prepare for college-level work.

Link: <http://www.collegeforadults.org/index.html>

Food Detectives

Through a partnership with Food Safety Education, The Food Detectives Fight BAC!® game gives students a fun way to learn about foodborne illnesses.

<http://www.fooddetectives.com/mainmenu.html>



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For more information, contact Erin Balleine, Resource Specialist at balleine@floridaliteracy.org or visit www.floridaliteracy.org and click on Become a Member