

Financial Literacy Grants Made Available Through the Support of Wells Fargo

Financial education promotes stability for individuals and their families. The more people know about credit, banking services, taxes and basic money management, the more likely they are to increase savings, buy homes, save for education and improve their financial well-being. Not surprisingly, people with a low level of education often also have low numeracy and financial literacy skills. Basic financial skills education can be critical to helping such individuals manage their money and protect themselves from predatory practices.

The Florida Financial Literacy initiative was recently launched at the Florida Literacy Conference in Daytona Beach, Florida. Connie Smith, Florida Community Affairs Manager for Wells Fargo, presented FLC with a check for \$50,000 to support this effort.

“At Wells Fargo, we believe that improving financial literacy is the gateway to economic self-sufficiency, so we are very proud to work with FLC to launch this important initiative,” Smith said.

The cornerstone of the initiative is a mini-grants program that will award seven literacy providers up to \$5,000 over a one-year period. The program also supports a special conference track on financial literacy and other training opportunities for teachers, tutors and administrators on how to incorporate financial information into their curriculum. The streamlined integration of literacy instruction and financial education promotes contextualized learning, an approach that helps people develop basic skills while acquiring information to make informed choices regarding their finances.

“The Florida Literacy Coalition is so pleased to be partnering with Wells Fargo and very appreciative of their support,” said Greg Smith, Executive Director of FLC. “Wells Fargo is truly committed to supporting financial education and strengthening local communities. It is our privilege to be working with them on this statewide effort.”

FLC encourages those interested in learning more about financial literacy instruction to explore *Hands On Banking*, a free curriculum developed by Wells Fargo that includes instructor guides with lessons and classroom activities. Available in both English and Spanish, it can be accessed at www.handsonbanking.org.

