ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

In the US, over 30 million adults do not have a high school diploma and 20% of US adults with a high school diploma have only beginning literacy skills. The US ranked 21st in numeracy and 16th in literacy out of 24 countries in a recent assessment of adults' skills. Two-thirds of U.S. adults scored at the two lowest levels of proficiency in solving problems in technology-rich environments. Yet, the publicly funded adult education system is able to serve only slightly over 2 million young and older adults per year. There are waiting lists for classes in all 50 states.


STATE, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL AGENCIES:

• Adult Learning Center - Milwaukee - alcmilwaukee.org/volunteers.html
  The Adult Learning Center provides motivated adults with basic education, life-long learning opportunities and resources to transform their lives and contribute to their communities, in the spirit of the teachings of Jesus Christ and the principles of social justice. The Adult Learning Center is dedicated to helping adults gain the basic academic skills necessary to earn a High School Equivalency Diploma or "G.E.D." and succeed in careers and higher education.

• Bilingual International Assistant Services – St. Louis - www.bilingualstl.org/opportunities/volunteer/
  SCORE is a national volunteer organization supported by the US Small Business Administration. The East Central Illinois Chapter is located in the Chamber of Commerce in Champaign, IL. The volunteers of SCORE include experienced business owners and managers who donate their experiences and knowledge to small business owners and potential business owners through workshops and free consulting.

• Illinois State Library - Adult Literacy Volunteer Tutor Training
  Helping adults improve their literacy and English language skills is an important task that requires training; the goal of this website is to provide a web-based training alternative to face-to-face training. To succeed, also be aware that establishing a close working relationship with a local adult literacy program is a vitally important factor.
• **International Institute of St. Louis** - [www.iistl.org/volunteer.html](http://www.iistl.org/volunteer.html)
  The International Institute, established in 1919, is a pioneer in the field of diversity. In all our comprehensive array of adjustment services reaches more than 7,500 immigrants and refugees from 75 countries, approximately 8% of the St. Louis City and County 2010 foreign-born population. As a result, the Institute has important multigenerational ties to local immigrant communities. Our programs and services are locally and nationally-acclaimed. We also have deep knowledge of the state of the immigrant communities and population trends. We serve as key consultants on a broad range of issues affecting the social, cultural and economic health of our region. Our mission is to help immigrants and their families become productive Americans and champion ethnic diversity as a cultural and economic strength.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA ORGANIZATIONS:

• **A&O Development Corporation** - [cuvolunteer.org/organizations/815](http://cuvolunteer.org/organizations/815)
  Not-for-profit faith-based organization in connection with Church of Apostolic Authority with a passion for uplifting the oppressed, closing the gap of the underserved and promoting education and wellness in the Champaign-Urbana community. Our mission is to provide supportive services, educational programs, and workforce preparation to low income individuals and families in the Champaign-Urbana community.

• **English as a Second Language (ESL at Champaign Central)** - [www.parkland.edu/servicelearning/](http://www.parkland.edu/servicelearning/)
  “Parkland Intensive ESL classes are small, averaging only 12 to 14 students. Each class typically has students from a variety of countries. Our teachers will help identify skills needing improvement, develop a learning program, chart progress in specific skill areas, and prepare for successful interaction in an American college environment. Students will have extensive free access to computer labs and can learn academic computer skills at each level. Electives are also available in TOEFL preparation, pronunciation, and conversation practice.”

• **Professions Workplace Mentoring Program** - [www.cu1to1.org/be-a-mentor](http://www.cu1to1.org/be-a-mentor)
  “The Professions Workplace Mentoring Program provides the Champaign-Urbana high school students involved in the C-U One-to-One Mentoring Program an opportunity for intensive workplace mentoring with a focus on teaching work habits, work skills and helping the individual student to discover the various opportunities available to them in a specific employment area.”

• **Project READ** - [www.parkland.edu/resources/adulted/literacy.aspx](http://www.parkland.edu/resources/adulted/literacy.aspx)
  Project READ, a not-for-profit literacy service, provides free tutoring to adult learners seeking to improve their reading, writing, and/or English as a Second Language skills. Tutors work with students in public locations, such as churches, libraries, and Adult Basic Education classrooms. Students need not be enrolled in Adult Basic Education classes to receive tutoring services, but must be age 16 or older and officially withdrawn from high school. Students are provided with all books and learning materials free of charge.
• Urbana Adult Education Center - urbanaadulteducation.org/volunteer/
  “The Urbana Adult Education Center has provided educational and career services to residents of Champaign County and surrounding communities in East Central Illinois for over 50 years. Our program is primarily grant funded and has partnered with the Urbana School District #116 since 1963; providing lifelong learning opportunities to persons 16 years of age and over, serving approximately 1,000 students each year. Our programs consist of the following: GED, High School Diploma, English Language Acquisition, Certified Nursing Assistant, Continuing Education and Career Development. We help our students to become more competitive in the workforce which allows them to transition into meaningful employment with a living wage.”

• Intensive English Institute Conversation Partners Program - www.iei.illinois.edu/involvement/
  “The Intensive English Institute offers two main programs: The Intensive English Program and Special Group Programs. The Intensive English Program teaches general academic English and is designed for individuals who want to improve their English for personal or professional reasons. This includes students who want to improve their English so they can enter a US university. The Intensive English Program is a full-time curriculum of 20 hours per week.”

• The Adult Learning Lab - education.illinois.edu/tall/volunteer/index.html
  Funded by the National Institute on Aging, the researchers in The Adult Learning Lab are exploring how various mental activities, like learning and memory, change as we move through the adult life span. We are always looking for volunteers from the community to participate in our research.