Mayor's Office for Adult Literacy

Presented By
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Presented To:
City Council

PRESENTATION GOALS

- To share the Mayor’s Office for Adult Literacy efforts to improve literacy rates in Houston
- To share how we coordinate, strengthen, and connect the adult literacy ecosystem
- To convey how reading, writing, digital skills, financial and health literacy are enhanced through this program



THE NEED

- Nationally, 48 million adults read below a 6th grade level
- Adults with low literacy are 2x more likely to face unemployment and significantly lower earnings

In Harris County:

- Nearly 1 in 3 adults struggle with basic and/or digital literacy skills
- Digital literacy gaps affect employment and civic participation
- Demand continues to grow, confirming the urgent need for coordinated adult learning pathways in Houston



VISION

Houston will be a city where every adult has equitable access to high-quality education and resources, empowering each individual with the literacy skills and knowledge needed to thrive in work, life, and community.



MOAL'S ROLE IS TO:

Enhance advocacy and awareness for adult literacy among community leaders, policymakers, employers, and the general public.

Engage providers who understand the unique needs and challenges and are positioned to provide services.

Build partnerships to leverage resources for literacy and workforce development.

Support literacy providers through capacity-building initiatives and foster collaborative networks to maximize learner achievement.

FUNCTIONAL AREAS:

- Health Literacy
- Financial Literacy
- Basic Literacy
- Digital Literacy

ADULT LITERACY BLUEPRINT & MOAL ALIGNMENT



GOAL 1: AWARENESS & ACTION

We amplify adult literacy citywide through outreach, events, and communications



GOAL 2: A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM

We connect providers and partners to create a unified, accessible service network



GOAL 3: MULTIGENERATIONAL LEARNING

We equip providers through training, collaboration, and shared resources



GOAL 7: SUSTAINBLE RESOURCES FOR PROGRESS

We develop pathways connecting literacy skills to jobs, training, and economic mobility



GOAL 4: WORKFORCE SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITIES

We streamline pathways so adults can easily find and move between services



GOAL 5: DIGITAL RESOURCES AND SKILLS

We activate local partnerships to deliver responsive, community-based programming



GOAL 6: COMMON DATA SYSTEM PRACTICES

We implement unified intake and reporting tools to guide data-driven decisions

CITYWIDE LITERACY AWARENESS

- Citywide literacy awareness expanded through events, outreach, and consistent program themes (health, digital, financial, basic literacy)
- Growing participation across city council districts reinforces public awareness and demand
- Nearly 20 active partners in high-needs communities where literacy levels are historically low
- Increase access to literacy resources within neighborhood library locations



PROGRAMMING



- Digital labs expand access for job-relevant digital skills
  - Total classes delivered (Jan–Aug): ***63 classes***
  - Total adult learners served: ***1,071 adults***
- Adult learning themes (digital, financial, GED) align directly with workforce readiness







EVERYONE ON DIGITAL SKILLS PROGRAM

Participants completed a required orientation session.

Participants took part in a three-week, hands-on digital skills series focused on computer basics, email, internet use, Microsoft Office, and online safety.

Participants who achieved perfect attendance throughout the program earned a free laptop provided by a grant.



GED PROGRAM

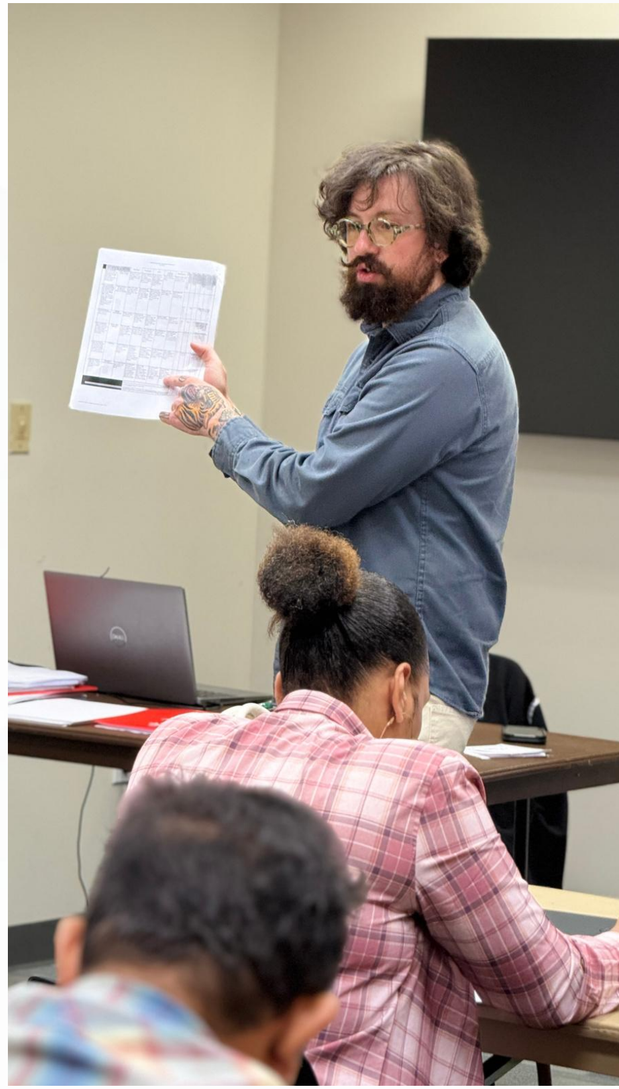
A GED Program launched in June 2026.

A total of 37 students are currently enrolled in the course.

A graduation celebration will be held in December.







ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EVENT



September 2026 Adult Education and Family Literacy Community Day Event

- In collaboration with Houston City College
- Provided literacy services and resources for adults, children, and families









COMMON DATA SYSTEM PRACTICES

- Unified intake system
- Monthly participation tracked across all partners
- Quarterly reports



LITERACY PROGRAM VOLUNTEER

Currently, 25 volunteers have signed up to participate in the program

Volunteers will complete standard HPL vetting process.

Structured training will be provided to ensure consistent, high-quality instruction.

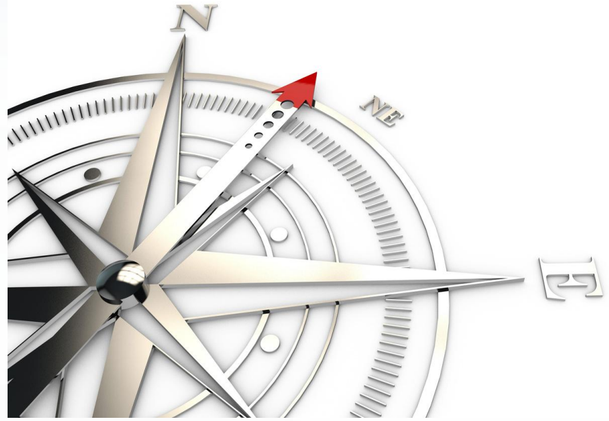


2026-2027 STRATEGIC FOCUS

Expand citywide literacy awareness through coordinated outreach, marketing, and presence in all city council districts.

Embed more multigenerational learning opportunities into digital and basic literacy pathways by focusing on family-based learning resources.

Build clear workforce-aligned skill pathways and strengthen referral systems with workforce agencies.



Enhance data practices that connect adult learners to literacy and workforce pathways.

Expand sustainable resources through stronger partnerships, volunteer system development, and pursuit of grants supporting long-term program growth.

THANK YOU!