

Literacy Volunteers of Illinois
VOCAL AmeriCorps
(Volunteer Outreach for Community Action in Literacy)
2022/2023

Host Sites

Centro Romero, 6216 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60660

Centro Romero, located on the northeast side of Chicago in the Edgewater neighborhood, is a non-profit organization providing options and opportunities for low-income Latino and other immigrants. Services offered include ESL and Spanish Literacy, Family Literacy, Immigration Services, and various programs for youth and women. Through education, Centro Romero emphasizes the development of the whole family unit, the creation of community leadership and self-reliance.

Contact: Antoine Lona, Adult Education Program Director 773/508-5300 ext.15

Instituto del Progreso Latino (IDPL), 2570 S. Blue Island, Chicago, IL 60608

IDPL is an educational organization whose mission is to contribute to the fullest development of Latino immigrants and their families through education, training and employment. With offices in on the southwest side of Chicago and several different service locations, IDPL offers a continuum of adult education services from learning how to read in Spanish to the GED and onto college level classes ABE and pre-GED classes are also offered, as is English literacy for students with less than a 6th grade education in their first language. Also offered are computer literacy programs, internet access and employment-readiness and job placement assistance.

Contact: Luisa Sanchez, Spanish Literacy Program Coordinator 773/890-0055

(The) Learning Connection, 2153 S. Millard Avenue, Chicago, IL 60623

The Learning Center (TLC), serving the North Lawndale and Little Village communities of Chicago, supports adults in their pursuit of an educational path to more confident and effective living. We serve students primarily from the North Lawndale & Little Village communities, however, because of the pandemic, we transitioned to remote learning which opened our classes to people from all over the City of Chicago and surrounding suburbs. Our students are diverse in race, culture, ethnicity, and experiences. Our core programming includes Adult Basic Education, High School Equivalency, English as a Second Language, and Spanish Literacy classes. To support our literacy classes, we offer a tutoring program, computer literacy classes, a health literacy program, emergency transportation, a food assistance program, mental health counseling, cultural excursions, and more.

Contact: Miriam Gonzalez, Program Coordinator, 773-277-3111

Literacy Chicago, 641 W. Lake Street, Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60661

Literacy Chicago is a nonprofit organization that empowers individuals to achieve greater self-sufficiency through language and literacy instruction. For more than four decades, thousands of adults have participated in the broad range of programs Literacy Chicago has developed, including basic literacy, GED preparation, English as a Second Language. Workforce Development, and Citizenship Program. Literacy Chicago continues its learner-focused programming by relying heavily on the efforts of volunteer tutors, and frequently offers ancillary classes such as health literacy, computer literacy, and financial literacy, to support the language/literacy options.

Contact: Joanne Telsler-Frere, Program Manager 312/870-1100

Literacy Volunteers of Illinois (LVI), 100 S. State Street, Suite 437, Chicago, IL 60603

LVI is a statewide organization that is committed to developing and supporting volunteer literacy programs that help families, adults and out-of-school teens increase their literacy skills. Founded in 1983, LVI conducts activities in four program area – Resource and Referral, National Service, Correctional Education and Information and Advocacy.

Jump Start at the Illinois Youth Centers (IYC)

A program of LVI that recruits retirees, especially retired teachers, to serve as tutors and mentors for youth incarcerated in the IYC.

IYC-Chicago, 136 N. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL

Contact: Melissa Auer, mauer@lvillinois.org

IYC-Warrenville, 30 W 200 Ferry Road, Warrenville, IL 60555

Contact: Melissa Auer, mauer@lvillinois.org

Morton College, 3801 S. Central Avenue, Cicero, Illinois 60804-4398

Project CARE of Morton College, provides free trained volunteer tutors to adults who are 17 years of age or older. We provide assistance with adult basic education in reading and writing, math, and/or adults who are learning English as a Second Language. Project CARE's goal is to help adult learners reach their literacy related goals by providing individual and group tutoring sessions as well as necessary academic support. Tutoring is conducted in-person and online. Tutors are provided with books, web-based learning platforms and Zoom meeting links. Project CARE serves the communities within the Morton College footprint; which includes Berwyn, Cicero, Stickney, Lyons, Forest View, McCook, and the surrounding areas, including Chicago.
Contact: Rebecca Angevine, Project CARE, Program Director 708/656-8000 ext. 2364

ScaleLIT, 1016 W. Jackson Blvd. – Suite 205, Chicago, IL 60607

Scale Lit, formerly known as the Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition, helps adult education organizations secure resources and training so that underserved adult learners can become economically successful and reframes adult basic education as a critical public policy issue. ScaleLIT offers Digital Literacy, Health Literacy, and Career Pathways programming for staff and adult learners in literacy programs, and, as the One-Stop Operator, is responsible for coordinating and integrating the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) partners' activities at American Job Centers.

Renuka Sharma, Senior Manager, Community Engagement 312/489-8639

Sunshine Community Services Center, 701 May Street, Kewanee, IL 61443

The Sunshine Community Services Center (SCSC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides educational programming and other support services to children and families in the west central Illinois city of Kewanee. The SCSC is the sponsor of the Step Ladder Tutoring Program which operates in the city's Middle Schools and through its CAPE-E (Communities Advancing Potential through Education and Empowerment) program, which is a collaboration with LVI, serves as a volunteer connector for various community agencies in the city of Kewanee. As part of its CAPE-E program, SCSC has full and part-time AmeriCorps serving in educational and empowerment capacities in the Step Ladder Tutoring Program, Salvation Army, YMCA and Abilities Plus, which is an agency service individuals with disabilities.

Contact: Etta LaFlora, Executive Director, 309/853-7751

Waukegan Public Library, 128 North County, Waukegan, IL 60085

A collaboration of the Waukegan Public Library and the College of Lake County offering a wide array of services including: basic skills assessments, specialized instruction by professional staff, one-to-one and small group tutoring by staff and volunteers, peer mentoring, computer, ESL and family literacy instruction.

Contact: Margie Taylor, Adult Literacy Director 847/623-2041 847/623-2902 (fax)

World Relief Chicago, 3507 W. Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625

World Relief-Chicago's mission is to engage communities to foster dignity and wholeness for immigrants and refugees in transition. English language and literacy development to obtain employment and integrate more fully into the Chicago community is a key avenue that World Relief uses to accomplish its mission. Education services include intensive English Language Training part-time ESL programming, family literacy and in-home tutoring. Also offers weekly employment preparation and cultural adjustment training.

Contact: Peter Zigterman, Young Adult Mentoring Program, 773/681-8560

World Relief DuPage/Aurora, 191 S. Gary Avenue, Suite 130, Carol Stream, IL 60188

The mission of World Relief is to empower local churches to see the most vulnerable people transformed economically, socially, and spiritually. World Relief DuPage/Aurora (WRDA) serves the immigrant and refugee communities in DuPage County and greater Aurora. WRDA's Social Services program provides immigrants and refugees with the support and tools needed to achieve stability and move toward health integration into their local community including case management, employment services, children and youth services, mental health counseling, and support for WRDA's Education/ESL programming.

Contact: Jenny Ferraro & Rachel Wassink, 630/462-7566