



LIBRARY FACTS

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California Library Literacy and English Acquisition Services Program or **California Library Literacy Services (CLLS)**

For 25 years, *California's public libraries have provided literacy services to low-literate adults and their families, helping Californians of all ages reach their literacy goals.*

◆ We strongly support sustaining these vital services. In 2007/2008 the State allocated \$5.064 million to support CLLS and the program reached **20,318 adult learners and 60,386 children** through **105 public library jurisdictions**. These adults were able to achieve goals such as getting a driver's license, writing a resume, or reading a book to their child for the first time.

◆ The core of CLLS services target **English speaking adults** who struggle with basic reading and writing skills. The majority of the adults participating in these programs have attended our nation's school systems and for an array of valid reasons, never learned to read or write sufficiently. **75% of these adults are in their prime wage-earning years** (ages 20 -49), working to improve their own economic status, and that of California as well.

◆ The National Center for Education Statistics produced estimates in January 2009 of the percentage of adults with low literacy in individual states and counties. **Some 32 million -- 14% -- of U.S. adults lack basic prose literacy skills -- meaning they can't read a newspaper or the instructions on a bottle of pills -- and 23% of California adults fall into this category.** To view estimates by county, see <http://nces.ed.gov/naal/estimates/StateEstimates.aspx>

(NOTE: Statistics were not provided as to English and non-English speakers included in the California numbers, however, in the national study, 2% of those surveyed were found not to speak English well enough to participate in the survey at all, and those individuals are included in the estimates.)

◆ **Instruction is provided one-on-one or in small groups by trained volunteer tutors** and is directed by the individual's pace and goals. The fact that these services are provided confidentially in the non-threatening environment of the library are crucial qualities in attracting these hard-to-reach adults who oftentimes are not of a skill and/or comfort level to

access or attend traditional classroom-based programs. Clearly **CLLS services are unique and non-duplicative** as they do not exist elsewhere in our communities.

◆ **CLLS works!** Of the goals set by adult learners, our data show the following:
CLLS Outcomes: Goals Reached By Adult Students - 2007/2008*

What difference do CLLS programs make in the lives of the adults they serve?
Our data show that:

- ◆ **65%** of those who set the goal were able to share a book with their child, achieved it
- ◆ **55%** were able to complete a job application; **37%** write a resume; **43%** interviewed for a job; and **25%** actually secured a new job or were promoted at work.
- ◆ **37%** of those who set the goal were able to vote
- ◆ **76%** of those who did not use the library prior to getting literacy help, began using the library regularly; **83%** of those who had never had a library card, received one; and **66%** took their children to storytime at the library.

* Results are based on 13,441 adults reporting over a six-month period in 2007/08

◆ Annually **over 10,000 volunteers serve as tutors** of adult learners and **provide over 750,000 hours of volunteer time**. Using EDD's average California hourly wage figure for 2007 of \$21.78, that's a total of over **\$16 million contributed** in volunteer time.

◆ CLLS is truly a state local partnership. By design, state funds are leveraged locally generating over \$15 million additional dollars to assist in providing these services. Those \$15 million would not be available without the state funding. **Every \$1 of state funds leverages \$3** in local and private funds — a great investment!

◆ In addition to services for adults, CLLS also extends support for literacy in California through Families For Literacy, English Language & Literacy Intensive and Mobile Library Literacy Services. The State Library provides oversight and technical assistance in support of CLLS. For more information, please visit www.libraryliteracy.org.

