



Families United for Learning & Literacy

Coalition Members

BronxWorks

Catholic Charities of New York

Center for Family Life in Sunset Park

CIANA

East Side House Settlement

Educational Alliance

Goddard Riverside Community Center

I Have a Dream Foundation

Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood
Settlement

Literacy Assistance Center

LiteracyINC (LINC)

Literacy Partners

Parent-Child Home Program

Queens Community House

SCAN New York

Southeast Bronx Neighborhood
Centers, Inc.

St. Nicks Alliance

Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region

Union Settlement Association

United Neighborhood Houses

University Settlement Society

WHEDco

~~~~~

## Families United for Learning & Literacy (FULL)

### A Plan for Whole-Family Success in New York City

#### The Challenge

**Educational deficits jeopardize family economic security and educational success for too many New York City families.**

- Only 38% of 3rd to 8th graders are considered proficient in English Language Arts, and just 36% are proficient in Math. Many of these children will eventually leave high school prematurely, without the full range of skills necessary to succeed in post-secondary education or the job market.
- NYC is home to 2.2 million adult residents who lack English proficiency and/or a high school diploma. As a result, these New Yorkers earn significantly less than their peers, putting economic success for them and their families out of reach.

#### The Solution

**Family Literacy programs are designed to involve a whole family in their collective educational success. By engaging both children and their parents (or other adult family caregivers) in a collaborative and mutually reinforcing learning process, families are better equipped to gain the skills they need to succeed.**

- An investment in family literacy programming will empower generations of family members to achieve educational goals, family stability, and economic security. Providing evidence-based education and strengthening family support leads to high-functioning, healthy and economically stable families.
- A \$5 million initiative in FY2019 will allow for approximately 16 community based organizations to expand or launch family literacy programs for roughly 450 families throughout the five boroughs. It will also support capacity-building grants for a further 8 organizations, which will cover community needs assessments, planning, development of partnerships, definitions of family outcomes, and staff training.

#### The Model

**Although Family Literacy models vary, they represent one form of two-generation programs which are designed to focus equally and intentionally on services and opportunities for both a parent and their child to maximize the overall success of the family.** According to the National Center for Families Learning, typical aspects of Family Literacy include:

- Interactive literacy activities between parents and children.
- Training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children.
- Parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency.
- An age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life.

## The Evidence

When New York City last funded family literacy programs, the Department of Youth and Community Development found that:

*“Programs have reported noteworthy improvements by both children and parents. As reported by their classroom teachers and parents, participating children are more motivated to learn, have greater self-confidence, and therefore do better academically. Parents have improved their literacy skills as well. Parents are more aware of the resources available to support their families and have increased their involvement in their children’s education and schools. They go to the library and read with their children, and they participate in school activities by working as volunteers and PTA meetings.”*

**Additional research into the benefits of two-generation and family literacy programs has found that:**

- When parents are dedicated to their own education, they serve as positive role models for their children’s academic success.
- More sophisticated language skills in children have been linked to parent’s literacy skills and shared reading.
- Skills that parents learn through their own education can be applied to their children, leading to better educational outcomes.
- Family literacy programs increase job skills and employment opportunities for parents by incorporating vocational skills training into their programs.

## Funding Overview

In order to foster the development and incubation of existing and new family literacy programs, Families United For Learning and Literacy proposes that funding:

- Be targeted to community based organizations with a successful track record of providing at least one of the four core elements of family literacy (Early childhood education or youth afterschool programs; adult literacy programs including ESOL, ABE or HSE; inter-generational programs between parents and children; parent education programs).
- Be flexible to encourage creativity in program models and allow organizations to tailor programming to the interests and needs of families in their communities.
- Be provided in multi-year grants including start-up funds in the initial year and allowing for cost of living adjustments in future years.

**Families United For Learning and Literacy requests your support  
for a \$5m NYC investment in FY2019!**

---

For additional information or to visit a family literacy program, please contact:

Kevin Douglas, Co-Director of Policy & Advocacy, [kdouglas@unhny.org](mailto:kdouglas@unhny.org)

Lynn Appelbaum, Deputy Executive Director, [lappelbaum@unhny.org](mailto:lappelbaum@unhny.org)

[www.unhny.org](http://www.unhny.org) • 212.967.0322