

The Crimsonbridge Foundation

Local Foundation Invests in Adults Learning English in the Greater Washington Area

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The Crimsonbridge Foundation and its affiliate, the Crimsonbridge Group, have awarded \$30,000 in grants to three English language programs serving low-income immigrants in the Greater Washington region. The [Literacy Council of Montgomery County](#) in Maryland, [Beacon for Adult Literacy](#) in Virginia, and the [Washington English Center](#) in Washington, DC each received \$10,000 to support English language programs that combined serve nearly 3,500 adults annually.



Photo courtesy of BEACON for Adult Literacy

The desire to acquire and improve English language skills continues to be in high demand throughout the region. Thousands of working adults and parents rely on nonprofit organizations for accessible and affordable English language programs. Through classroom-based instruction adults acquire the proficiency needed to engage in their communities, obtain better jobs, and support their children's education. Most also offer classes on workplace literacy, computer skills, and citizenship preparation.

The success of these three organizations is the result of communities coming together to support their neighbors. Each engages hundreds of volunteer instructors and partners with churches, schools, and libraries for classroom space. "We serve low income populations with low educational levels," says Jennifer Mora Zuniga, executive director of BEACON for Adult Literacy, whose students range in age from 18 to 72 years old and have represented more than 70 countries.

"The positive impact of these organizations is transformative," says Danielle M. Reyes, executive director of the Crimsonbridge Foundation. "When adults have the language skills needed to succeed at work and in the community, it benefits their children, our economy, and the future of this region."

Established in 2015, the Crimsonbridge Foundation is dedicated to promoting education, developing leadership and finding innovative, transformative ways to address social issues. In addition to English language programs, it has also awarded \$140,000 in grants to help nonprofit organizations develop multi-lingual communications strategies that help adults with limited English proficiency access information about education programs and health services for themselves and their families.

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