

Creating a Community Literacy Organization



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**The Michigan Adult Education Practitioner's Task
Force supports literacy efforts throughout Michigan.
Continuing adult education means a better educated
community, creating a better life for us and our
children.**

Acknowledgement

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does” – Margaret Mead

Sixty-seven percent of the world's population is illiterate. One may think that lack of literacy skills can only exist in a developing nation with few resources available to promote literacy. There are adults, however, here in Michigan that have not mastered the English language to the degree necessary to enter secondary education, complete their GED, or advance in their employment. The stories behind the statistics are many. Yet the desire to make a better life for ourselves, our families, and our community is what we all have in common.

A committed group of citizens can change the world. That change is closer to a reality, however, when it is organized and managed well. The purpose of this handbook is to give guidance to those committed groups who want to create a more literate community. There are many elements that make a literacy program successful. It is the hope of the handbook committee that this document will provide practical guidelines and suggestions for new and emerging literacy organizations. There are resources throughout the handbook which will be helpful to the reader for further exploration.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS		
	Topic	Page
ADMINISTRATION	Introduction and Overview	2
	Needs Assessment	2
	Identify Community Links	3
	Identify Stakeholders	4
	Mission and Vision	5
	Start Up Checklist	7
	Board of Directors	9
	Board Development	11
	Applying for 501(C)(3) Status	13
	Articles of Incorporation	14
	By-Laws	14
	Getting Started Financially	16
	Strategic Planning	17
	Budget Management	21
	Policies and Practices	26
	Staff Management	49
	PROGRAMMING	One-to-One Tutoring
ESOL/ESL Classes		60
Family Literacy		65
Workplace Literacy Development		67
Corrections Education in County Jails		70
Computer Lab Instruction		71
Measuring Program Outcomes and Success		73
ADULT LEARNERS	The Adult Learning Environment	78
	The Tutor's Role	78
	Points to Ponder About Adult Learners	79
	Points to Ponder During the Lesson	81
	The Adult and Learning Changes	81

TABLE OF CONTENTS		
VOLUNTEERS	Volunteer Recruitment	84
	Volunteer Retention	88
	Volunteer Recognition	90
	Volunteer Management	92
	Volunteer Risk Management	10
	Training and Support for Volunteers	110
	Matching Tutors and Learners Effectively	113
MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS	What It Means	116
	The Media	117
	Social Networking	118
	News Releases	120
	Newsletters	122
	Brochures and Other Marketing Pieces	123
	Logo and Identity	124
Creating a Website	124	
FUNDRAISING	Introduction to Fundraising	128
	Developing a Case Statement	129
	Rules and Regulations	129
	Appeal Letters/Direct mail	130
	Building a Donor Base	132
	Developing a Successful Grant	134
	Special Events	137