

FACT SHEET

LITERACY FOR EVERY ADULT PROJECT (LEAP)

Literacy for Every Adult Project (LEAP) is the Richmond, California's adult literacy program. LEAP was founded with a grant from the California State Library in 1984 as a library-based, volunteer-driven program. We serve adults 16 years of age and above. We offer a wide range of adult literacy services, including but not limited to:

- Basic reading and writing instruction
- English as a Second Language/Literacy (ESL/L) classes
- GED preparation classes
- Family literacy instruction
- Basic financial literacy instruction

Open Hours and Contact Information

Monday through Thursday: 8:30 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Friday: 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Telephone: (510) 307-8084

Fax: (510) 620-6585

rferguson@richmondworks.org

Location

330 25th Street, at McDonald Avenue, 2nd Floor
Richmond, CA

Mailing Address

325 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

We serve more than 400 students and their children each year. Our principal funding source is the City of Richmond, California. Additionally, we receive generous grants from California State Library and the California Workforce Investment Act, as well as corporate, foundation, and private donations. Please feel free to make a donation in care of LEAP to Friends of the Richmond Public Library – (Non-profit ID #68-0007763). All donations are tax deductible.

LEAP is an excellent opportunity for volunteering, so please do not hesitate to call us if you are interested in becoming a literacy tutor. LEAP accepts new students throughout the calendar year; therefore, if you or someone you know could use the services listed above, do not hesitate to contact us or make an appropriate referral.

Frequently Asksed Questions (FAQ's) about LEAP

- ***How much does LEAP cost?***

It's free to students and tutors. Special events may cost a nominal amount to cover our expenses.

- ***I see the minimum age to be a student is 16, is there a maximum age?***

No, we have students who are senior citizens.

- ***How old must you be to volunteer tutor?***

We recommend that prospective tutors wait until they are 18 years old before they begin, however, exceptions have been made.

- ***Do you provide materials?***

Yes, we supply all the materials you need. However, if there is something you need that we have not provided, please tell us and we will do our best to make it available for your use.

- ***How long does it take to learn to read?***

It takes the average student about one year to achieve his/her initial reading goal.

- ***I want my GED. How long does that take?***

A relatively high-level student takes about 5-6 months, but of course, the more frequently you study, the sooner you will be able to pass the test.

- ***What is English as a Second Language/Literacy?***

Most of our students speak some English; therefore, we focus on helping them improve their English reading and writing skills.

- ***What is Family Literacy?***

The Family Literacy component of our program serves our adult students who have children age 5 and below. We give free books and hold numerous, fun events for families throughout the year.

- ***What is Financial Literacy?***

During the course of regular literacy instruction, we try to make the work as "real world" as possible. Therefore, much of the work and many of the examples cited are employment and/or personal finance related. Currently, we are developing a stand-alone "Finance as Second Language" component.

- ***Given the financial state of Richmond and California, what prognosis for LEAP's survival?***

LEAP has enjoyed the support of the City of Richmond for 20 years. During that time, the City has experienced many budgetary challenges. Considering the state of adult literacy problem in this country, in general, and Richmond, in particular, we have every confidence that we will continue to receive the support this program needs to thrive.

- ***What are the literacy statistics for Richmond?***

We combined the literacy rates by state demographics (according to the 1994 California State Adult Literacy Survey where literacy skill levels are split into five levels, Five (V) the highest One (I) the lowest), and City of Richmond demographics. For instance, we multiplied the .21 rate of Whites who compose Level I and II in California with .30 demographic make up of Whites in the City of Richmond. One derives the fact that .063 of the total City population (16 and above) is both White and in the Levels I/II group. We carried this analysis to African-American, Hispanic and Asian groups. We found that fully **58%** of the City of Richmond's adult population is in the Level I/II Literacy groups, the two lowest groups.

99,216 (total population) x 77% (over 16) x 58% (Level I/II literacy group) = **44,310** persons who group who need literacy services we provide.

- ***I'm interested in becoming a volunteer tutor. How much time will it take?***

After an initial orientation session, we will expect about 2 hours of your time per week. Although we have no minimum for your tutoring tenure, we hope that you can commit to at least six months. However, be forewarned, tutoring can become quite habit forming.

- ***Must I have tutoring and/or teaching experience to become a LEAP tutor?***

No, you just need an orientation and brief training. Once you start working with your student, we give you an individualized curriculum for each student. An extensive, general tutor training is unnecessary. Questions are welcome, advice copiously given. However, you need to be confident reader and competent writer. Please tell us if you have specialized skills in computers, mathematics, science, finance, or in the medical field.

- ***Can I tutor or get tutored in my home?***

No. We find the home environment is not conducive to teaching or learning. Additionally, the City of Richmond has concerns for participants in someone else's house.