

A Message from the CEO: Funding Threatened

When you read the stories below about our students we hope it brings a smile, and recognition for all the work that our teachers and tutors do to support our learners.

Our work and students are again under threat. Governor Wolf has proposed cutting support for adult and family literacy education by \$800,000 in the state budget for 2017-2018. This will definitely mean a reduction in state funding for Center for Literacy (CFL) and will dramatically affect our new ESL Family Literacy program operating in two South Philadelphia elementary schools, which is slated to serve 150 families over the next year. This continues the 10-year trend of diminishing government support for adult and family literacy education.

State support for adult and family literacy education in Pennsylvania has fallen from a high of \$24 million in 2008 to \$12 million today. As a direct result, CFL's organizational budget has fallen from \$4.2 million to \$2.7 million over the same time period. Since Federal and State funding supports over 80 percent of CFL's programming, we have definitely learned to do more with less. Sadly, we have taken that about as far as we can. Any future reductions are going to affect services.

Your support of CFL over the years has had a dramatic effect on Philadelphia. Because of you, and our dedicated volunteer tutors and teachers, more Philadelphians can better support their children's education; more Philadelphians have learned English, math, or how to use a computer in order to get a job or a better job; and more Philadelphians can enroll in community college or other higher education. At the same time, because of you, fewer Philadelphians are less likely to live in deep poverty, abuse drugs or alcohol, or be involved with the criminal justice system.

We need your help to advocate for keeping state funding level for adult and family literacy education in the upcoming budget negotiations.

Please, from your **home address and/or email**, contact your state legislators and the Governor. In three or four paragraphs:

- Tell them you are a constituent in their district
- Ask them to keep state funding level for adult and family literacy education in the upcoming budget negotiations
- Tell them a story about a successful learner (from one of our e-newsletters; go to <http://www.centerforliteracy.org/news-2/> for an archive of our e-newsletters)
- Tell them the impact of that success on Philadelphia (see paragraph four above)
- Thank them for their leadership

The Committee of Seventy has powerful tools on their website to locate elected representatives by zip code. Go to <https://www.seventy.org/>

We appreciate your support.

Michael Westover