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Partnerships with Literacy and Basic Skills – A Community Partner Information Kit

For more information, please contact

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Purpose

This information kit is meant to provide community partners with information about Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) programs with a focus on partnership opportunities. Adult Basic Education Association (ABEA) is the Adult Learning Network in Hamilton. We support and represent the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) programs in Hamilton. These programs are also known as Academic Upgrading (AU) Programs. If you work with clients that have essential skills upgrading needs, or if you develop and offer training programs, this information kit is for you.

Partnering with Literacy and Basic Skills can provide your participants with the educational support they need to be successful in their training, further education and employment.

About the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Program

The Ontario Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) program helps adults in Ontario to develop and apply communication, numeracy, interpersonal and digital skills to achieve their goals. The LBS program serves learners who have goals to successfully transition to

- employment

- post-secondary
- apprenticeship
- secondary school
- greater independence

Each learner has an individualized learner plan that is unique to their goals and includes the supports needed for success. The program is **free** to learners and is ongoing – learners can start when it works for them and they move on when they are ready to transition to their next step. [Watch a short video about the benefits of LBS here.](#) Programs are offered full or part-time in the morning, afternoon and evening and online options are available as well.

In Hamilton there are 7 LBS providers

- [CNIB \(Canadian National Institute for the Blind\) – Deafblind Community Services - Deafblind Literacy Program for Adults](#)
- [Collège Boréal](#)
- [Hamilton Literacy Council](#)
- [Hamilton Regional Indian Centre – Native Learning Centre](#)
- [Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board – St. Charles Adult Education Centres](#)
- [Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board – Community and Continuing Education](#)
- [Mohawk College – Academic Upgrading](#)
- [Mohawk College – Deaf Empowerment Program](#)



Partnership Opportunities

What ABEA Can Offer

As the Learning Network, we are your first point of contact for adult education in Hamilton. We can provide marketing materials to give to staff and participants.

We offer

1. **Educational planning presentations** (free) – this one-hour presentation covers essential skills and why they are important for work and local educational options (upgrading, Grade 12/equivalent, post-secondary, apprenticeship)
2. **Individual Educational Interviews** (free) – this is a 1:1 conversation with a client to discuss educational options and determine their first step (can be offered directly following a presentation)
3. **Educational Planning Assessments** (fees negotiated) – comprehensive essential skills or learning challenges assessments with an individualized action plan
[Refer clients](#) who
 - a. have been out of school for a long time
 - b. are unsure of their skills
 - c. report learning challenges
 - d. have difficulties with daily literacy tasks
 - e. are looking to retrain
 - f. need a Grade 12/equivalent
 - g. need prerequisites for post-secondary programs
4. **Partnership Coordination** (free) – if you are looking to partner with a service provider, we can facilitate a meeting with one, several or all service providers as needed

LBS Program Partnerships

A key component to the LBS program is that it is flexible and customizable. If planned and resourced, programming can be created and delivered to meet specific community needs onsite, or at a partner location.

Program partnerships

1. **Client referrals to LBS** (free) – Depending on the type of service you are providing, in many cases, clients can also access upgrading programs to ensure they have the skills they need for their next step. Instructors will work with the learner to find a schedule that works for them.
2. **Customized Training Partnerships** – If you have a specific upgrading need (for example, math upgrading for a specific skilled trade or digital skills for the workplace), a customized training partnership is the answer. In order to be effective, include the service provider in the planning stages of the project/training – ideally in the proposal phase. Although the LBS program is free for clients, building and delivering customized programs requires staff and resources. This is why it is critical to develop this partnership early.

In order for programs to offer an accurate proposal, please include

- an overview of the program, jobs that it focuses on (if applicable) and information about the technical skills training
- where you are in the proposal phase and a general timeline for approval, development and delivery
- what specific essential skills you are looking to have reviewed/learned/upgraded
- how long the program will have to deliver the targeted training - how many days/hours
- how much funding they will have for program development (although LBS is free to clients/learners, if specific programming needs to be developed this will have to be resourced and a teacher/instructor assigned) - programs can also provide quotes for this

if needed

- whether you hope to have the LBS program deliver in the program location or at the LBS location



These *Employment Ontario* programs are funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario and through the Canada-Ontario Job Fund Agreement.