



Impact Report 2023-2024



Dear Friends,

At Wisconsin Literacy, we know that literacy is much more than reading. It is the foundation for opportunity.

Whole person literacy connects people to jobs, strengthens families, and helps individuals navigate their world with confidence. In 2024, your support made these transformations possible. Refugees regained their voice in new communities, parents earned their GED to inspire future generations, and adult learners gained digital skills to thrive in an increasingly online world. Many also learned to better understand health information, giving them the tools to make informed decisions for themselves and their families. These stories remind us that literacy truly changes lives.

Your generosity strengthens the work of more than 80 member agencies across Wisconsin, providing resources and training to meet learners where they are. Together, we are addressing literacy needs today while building a foundation for a brighter and stronger tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued belief in the power of literacy.



Stephen Mundt, Board Chair



Jake Gorges, Executive Director



wisconsin
literacy

Photo provided by Empire Photography

Meeting the Unique Needs of Refugee Students

Adult students who qualify for refugee status often arrive in the United States having endured trauma and adjusting to a new culture and unfamiliar environment. It's particularly important that we support inclusive, safe, and welcoming literacy programs for this group of students. A two-year grant from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and the Bureau of Refugee Programs (BRP) has allowed us to:

- Hire a highly experienced Program Manager to oversee the grant.
- Support English Language Learning programs at 18 Wisconsin Literacy member agencies.
- Provide resources, capacity-building support and trainings that resulted in our members serving 1,075 ORR-eligible students and their families.
- Help agencies provide transportation, offsite classes and childcare to remove barriers to education.
- Host the inaugural Refugee and Immigrant Support Summit, in partnership with the Wisconsin Technical College System. The Summit brought together immigrants and refugees, service providers, educators, as well as community and business leaders for action-oriented networking and resource sharing.

1,999 refugees were resettled in Wisconsin in fiscal year 2024. Wisconsin Literacy member programs reached over 1,000 refugee students. Through the support of ORR and BRP, we have helped to meet the educational and professional goals of refugee students statewide. Our member agencies have helped refugee students learn English and connected them to important resources in their community. The staff and volunteers also provide classes for refugees who are eligible to become U.S. citizens, equipping them with the knowledge and language skills needed to pass the citizenship test. [By attending classes and working with a tutor at a Wisconsin Literacy member agency, a refugee student from Syria met his goal of moving up one English as a Second Language (ESL) level. With this knowledge, he opened his own tailoring business in Madison earlier this year.]

Photo provided by Literacy Services of Wisconsin



Driving Health Literacy Forward

This past year, Wisconsin Literacy, Inc. (WL) conducted organizational health literacy assessments in hospitals and clinics to identify strengths and areas for improvement. These assessments laid the groundwork for enhancing patient experiences. WL's work has drawn interest from additional healthcare providers looking to collaborate in the future.

WL co-hosted a successful Collaborative Health Literacy Summit in May, attended by over 200 participants from nine states. The conference featured a diverse group of speakers and sessions that inspired collaboration and knowledge-sharing within the health literacy field.

WL created educational videos to help individuals and families access reliable medical information online. In partnership with trusted community-based organizations, WL provided COVID-19 vaccine information to traditionally under-served populations. These workshops and community events culminated in nearly 10,000 activities and 4.7 million outreach contacts statewide.

Easy-to-understand health information is vital for patients, families, and caregivers. These projects reinforce WL's commitment to making health information clear and accessible, strengthening its role as a leader in advancing health literacy.



Advancing Literacy Statewide

This year, Wisconsin Literacy (WL) leadership dedicated countless hours to advocating for expanded literacy funding. We are passionate about literacy's transformative impact—not only in strengthening Wisconsin's workforce and economy but also in enhancing the well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

As chair of the Workforce Committee of the Governor's Council of Workforce Investment, WL's Executive Director, Jake Gorges, focuses on aligning workforce development with the literacy needs of adult learners, fostering outcomes that benefit both students and employers.

Throughout the year, WL highlighted the vital role of local literacy programs in preparing adults for meaningful career paths. Our member agencies play an essential role in helping students develop critical skills—from GED preparation to English language proficiency and digital literacy. These skills open doors to new opportunities that support personal growth and contribute to Wisconsin's economic health.

In the coming year, we will continue strengthening partnerships and raising awareness of the powerful link between literacy, growth, and opportunity. Together, we're working to build a more literate Wisconsin, where individuals, families, businesses, and communities thrive. Our vision is a state that values learning, inclusion, and the opportunities literacy creates for all.



Thank You to Donors, Grant Funders and Sponsors (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

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Wisconsin Department of Administration
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

\$25,000-\$99,999

Ascendium Group
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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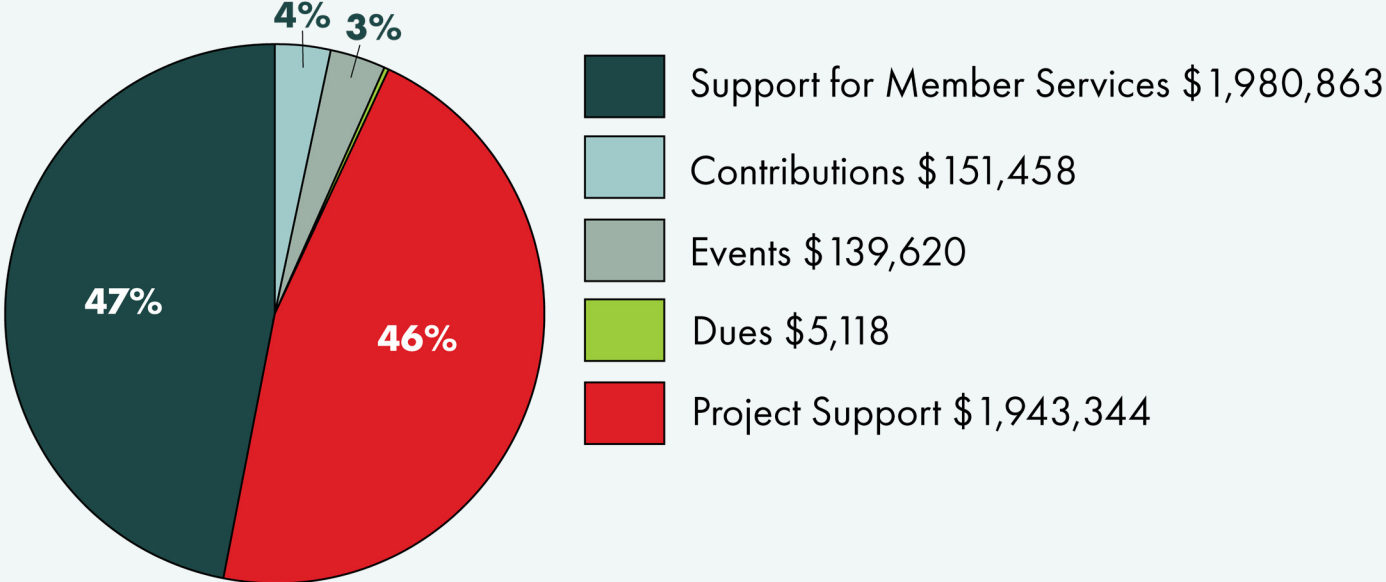
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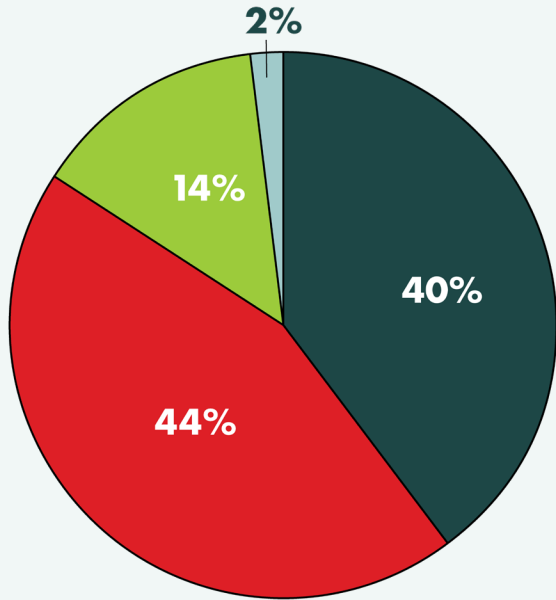
**We sincerely apologize if any partner, donor or sponsor was inadvertently omitted from our printed list. Please let us know so we can promptly address the oversight. Thank you.*

Financial Highlights

Revenue \$4,220,403



Expenses \$4,272,291



- Member Services \$1,708,791
- Program Services (HL) \$1,891,561
- Management and General \$600,698
- Fundraising \$71,240

2023-24 Members

Adult Learning Center
Adult Learning Program and Services of
Black River Falls Library
Adult Literacy Center of Ozaukee
County, Inc.
African American Mutual Assistance
Network, Inc.
Alternative Center for Education
Ashland Literacy
Baraboo Area Literacy Council
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Sauk Prairie Area Literacy Council
Sawyer County Literacy
SEA Literacy
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Walworth County Literacy Council

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Our Mission

Changing lives by strengthening literacy statewide.

Our Vision

All people in Wisconsin have the literacy skills to reach their full potential.

Contact Us

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