**Instructions:**

1. Find your local state representative here: <https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/>
2. **Personalize** **then copy** the text from the sample letter below.
3. Email your representative.

Dear Insert Representative’s Name,

Please continue funding community-based literacy programs statewide that support and prepare **adult literacy students** for the next phase of the economy.

[Insert a statement or two about why literacy is **personally** important to you]

**I am part of Wisconsin Literacy, a coalition of 70+ literacy programs statewide.** Adult and family literacy programs provide numeracy, literacy, digital literacy, work readiness, high school equivalency, citizenship classes, health literacy and wrap-around services to nearly 16,000 adults and children in Wisconsin.

**Adults with low literacy skills are extremely vulnerable to the current and future economic downturn from COVID-19 and need additional support.** A majority of the students served by community-based literacy agencies come from communities most impacted by the triple threat of the pandemic, racial injustice and an economy in crisis. They represent many communities of color, immigrants and refugees, our Tribal Nations and families with low-to-moderate income. Many are essential workers or have lost employment in the hospitality or manufacturing industries.

Yet, they are still trying to continue to learn!

**Community-based literacy programs require immediate funding to help address the needs of adult students in this time of crisis.**

Program needs include:

* training for instructors and volunteers in distance teaching/learning
* digital devices to connect students with instructors and volunteers
* building and infrastructure upgrades to respond to COVID-19 social distancing practices
* resources for parents, children, and instructors to support K12 virtual learning at home
* additional seats or user licenses for online learning software
* capacity to serve an increased number of students in the late summer or early fall

**Community-based literacy agencies’ funding and resources do not meet the demand** for laptops, Chromebooks, tablets, or hotspots for adult students and their families.

In addition, programs must prepare for the inevitable increase in adult students as they consider new life and work choices and evaluate their current skill levels.

Skilling-up efforts need to start now (<https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/america-can-skill-unemployed-workers-today-tomorrows-jobs>). With additional funding, literacy agencies will be equipped to serve a greater number of adults in need of re-skilling and up-skilling.

Please prioritize adult students accessing literacy and work readiness skills in community-based literacy agencies located in 86% of Wisconsin counties.

Thank you for your consideration on this request.