**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. Dedicated staff and volunteers at these programs provide life-changing opportunities for their students.

**Adults in Wisconsin with low literacy skills come from all corners of our state and from around the world.** 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.

**Community-based literacy programs require support and funding to help meet the needs of adult students, to strengthen communities and equip our workforce.**

Program needs include:

* training for instructors and volunteers in 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 K-12 learning at home
* additional seats or user licenses for online learning software
* capacity to serve an increased number of students in the coming year

**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.

 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.