

Life Goals *achieved!*

at Blue Ridge Literacy

July 1, 2021– June 30, 2022

In the 21-22 Fiscal Year, Blue Ridge Literacy continued to provide adult literacy learners in our community with the Functional Literacy Skills they need to reach their life goals. Functional Literacy refers to practical skill sets required to read, write, and communicate for real-life purposes, so people can function effectively and safely in everyday settings and achieve their long-term plans and goals. We continued offering our integrated English and Health Literacy Classes, Expanded our English and Digital Literacy Program, and increased the study options for participating on our Citizenship Preparation Services.

Blue Ridge Literacy works closely with community partners and service providers in our area to share information about available resources and opportunities in our community. By addressing the informational gap of adult learners, BRL's cross-sectional literacy services help learners gain equitable access to opportunities and resources they need to improve living conditions for themselves and their families. To ensure our learners can access our services, Blue Ridge Literacy offers online and in-person options at different times of the day.

LEARNERS

295

enrolled in ESOL classes

90

worked with a 1:1 tutor

220

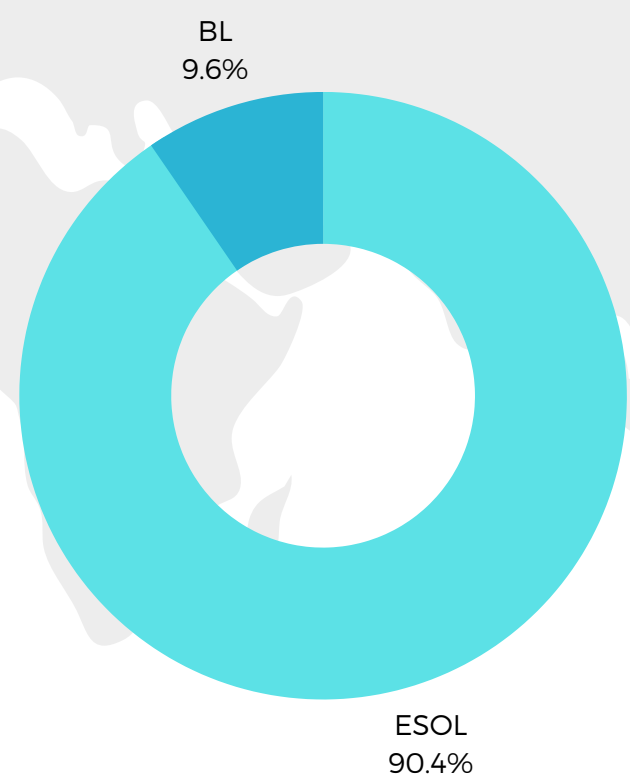
improved Health Literacy Skills

120

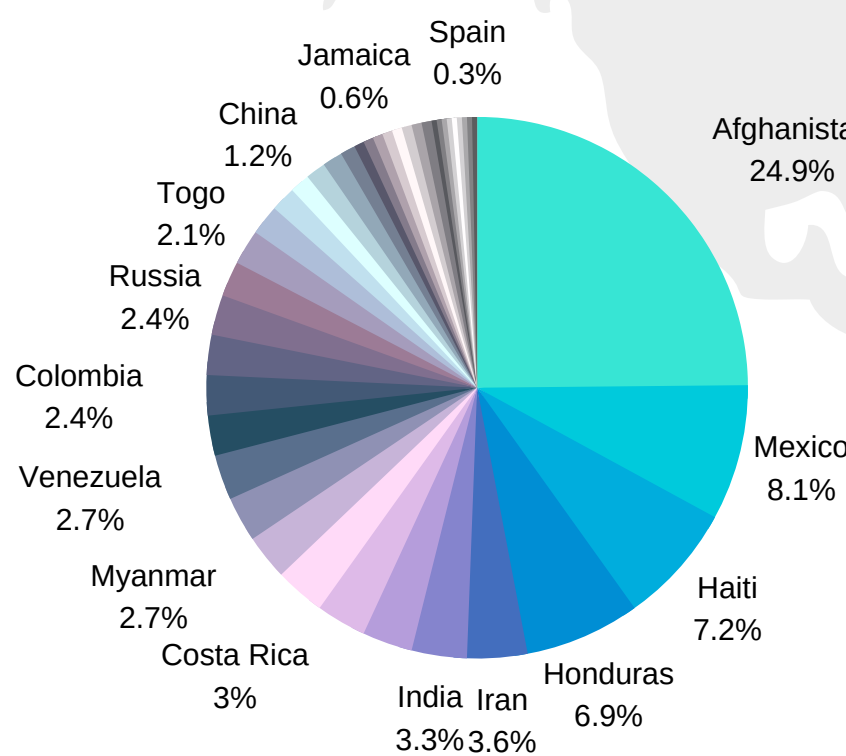
Improved Digital Literacy Skills

20

became US citizens



BRL's English literacy services are offered to American and Foreign-born adults in Southwest Virginia. Currently, 90% of BRL learners are foreign-born adults enrolled in our ESOL and Citizenship Preparation programs.



In Fiscal Year 21-22, BRL's learners represented 42 countries, including the United States. The top five countries represented were Afghanistan, Mexico, Haiti, Honduras, and South Sudan,

VOLUNTEERS

8400 total instruction and volunteer hours

In FY 21-22, BRL's volunteers and instructors allocated a total of 8400 hours to provide online and in-person training to over 300 learners in one-on-one and classroom settings. BRL's Literacy volunteers served as one-on-one tutors, online and in-person classroom instructors, and classroom assistants in our English and Healthy literacy classes.

90

total # of literacy volunteers

60

new volunteers engaged through six online volunteer training workshops

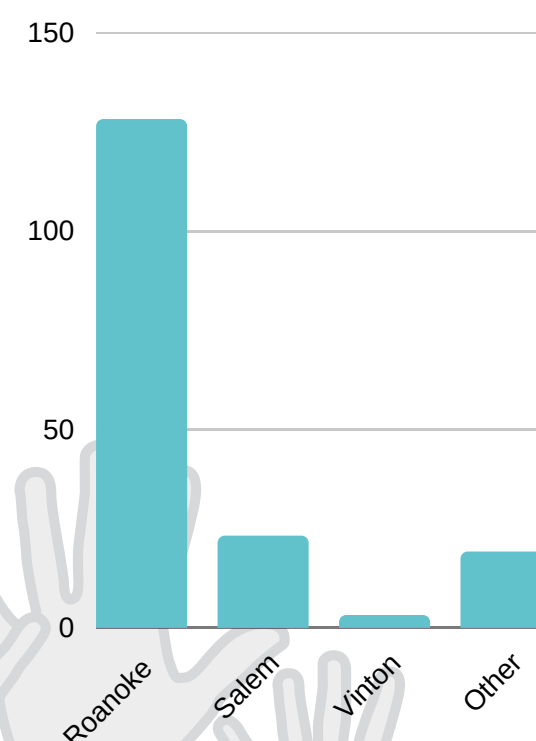
100%

of volunteers who left in 2021 completed their commitment

Who volunteers?



Women make up 70% of volunteers at BRL



Most BRL literacy volunteers live in Roanoke City



For online donations, please use the QR code above!

Life goals through literacy

U.S. Adult Literacy Facts

U.S. Facts

43
Million

More than 43 million adults in the United States cannot read, write, or do basic math above a third-grade level.¹

Member Services



50% of ProLiteracy member programs put students on a waiting list due to demand exceeding program capacity.²



Less than 10% of adults in need are receiving services.²

The Cost of Low Literacy

\$2.2
Trillion

Bringing all adults to the equivalent of a sixth-grade reading level would generate an additional \$2.2 trillion in annual income for the country.³

\$106-238
Billion

It is estimated between \$106–\$238 billion in health care costs a year are linked to low adult literacy skills.⁴

3X
The Earnings

Workers who have less education than a high school diploma have the lowest median weekly earnings (\$592), three times less than the highest level of education.⁵

English Language Learners



One-in-Five

The U.S. has the world's largest immigrant population, holding one-in-five of the world's immigrants.⁶

53%
Proficient

Among immigrants only half (53%) are proficient English speakers.⁷



103 MILLION

By 2065, immigrants and their descendants are projected to increase the U.S. population by 103 million people.⁸

Incarceration



75% of state incarcerated individuals did not complete high school or can be classified as low literate.¹⁰



Incarcerated individuals who participate in correctional education programs are **43% less likely to recidivate** than inmates who do not.¹¹

Family Literacy



A mother's reading skill is the greatest determinant of her children's future academic success, outweighing other factors, such as neighborhood and family income.⁹