

Community Contacts and Resources

There are numerous and varied resources available in every community for aiding adult literacy activities. It is essential that service and educational organizations reach out to their communities for the sole reason that adult students have a great variety of interests, needs, and problems that are not likely to be met by only one organization or group. However, there are additional reasons for developing or furthering cooperative efforts in your community:

- to reach more people
- to improve services
- to maximize resources
- to extend services to previously unserved or underserved groups
- to develop more specialized services
- to improve public relations
- to improve your image in the community
- to open up funding possibilities
- to increase community support
- to benefit the community
- to avoid duplication of services

The first task in making contact with community resources is identifying them. The available resources are unique to each community, but some of the organizations or agencies you may want to approach include:

- volunteer literacy organizations
- libraries
- local schools
- adult education programs (ABE, GED)
- vocational schools
- community colleges
- universities
- Head Start programs
- teacher organizations
- social services departments
- single-parent organizations
- recreation departments
- Women, Infant and Children (WIC) programs
- Catholic family services
- The Salvation Army
- The Red Cross
- homeless shelters
- food banks
- women's shelters
- refugee assistance programs
- immigration counseling services
- family planning agencies
- rehabilitation centers
- client rights organizations

- health departments
- hospitals, nursing homes
- mental health agencies
- local parole officers
- correctional facilities
- local hotlines
- churches
- unions
- neighborhood associations
- senior citizen programs and residences
- employment offices
- secretary of state offices
- businesses and industries
- chambers of commerce
- local bar associations
- radio, TV, newspapers, shoppers guides
- ethnic and minority organizations
- The Urban League
- Native American organizations
- agricultural extension offices
- consumer protection services
- housing authorities
- tenants rights associations
- veterans outreach programs
- community centers
- day care centers
- Retired Senior Volunteer Programs
- women's organizations
- fraternal organizations
- police departments

Courtesy of Michigan Literacy, Inc.

11-04.Community Contacts FS