



**Become a  
Volunteer Tutor**

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## **Frequently Asked Questions about Volunteer Tutoring**

### **Is there a need for volunteer tutors?**

Yes. There is a need for tutors to work with adult learners to help them improve their reading, writing, math, and/or English language skills. Some instructors also help students prepare for the Alternative High School Diploma or General Educational Development (GED) examination. The Lewis & Clark Literacy Council utilizes tutors in a one-to-one setting or in small groups [one tutor working with 2-6 students]. Occasionally we have opportunities for tutors to assist students enrolled in the *Access to Success* program at UM Helena.

### **How do I learn to tutor?**

Volunteers attend tutor-training workshops. These workshops, which are approximately 15 hours long, introduce you to the techniques used in tutoring an adult and will cover a range of topics: language acquisition, tutor/learner collaborative process, goal setting, discovering student's level, techniques for developing listening/speaking skills, use of dialogues, 3 views of Reading, Language experience approach, sight words, phonics, word patterns, reading comprehension, developing writing skills, assessments, lesson planning, tutor responsibilities.

### **What are the qualifications to be a tutor?**

Tutors should be high school graduates or have a GED and have a compassionate attitude.

### **Do I need to speak another language to teach English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)?**

No. The training workshops prepare you to work with a student with whom you do not share a common language.

### **How much time does it take to tutor?**

Most programs request volunteers give 1-3 hours per week for a minimum of 2+ months.

### **How is tutoring organized and set-up?**

The program director will ask the type of student you would like to work with, and the times that you are available. With this information he or she will arrange for you to meet with an adult learner.

### **Where does tutoring take place?**

The location for the tutoring can be just about any public location including a community college, local library, business, or community center. The Lewis & Clark Literacy Council does not support

in-home tutoring.

**How old are the students?**

Students are usually adults ages 18 and over. Occasionally, we match a volunteer tutor with a student enrolled in the *Access to Success* program. If the student is age 16 or 17, the tutor will be finger printed and have a complete back round check.

**What if I need to travel or miss some tutoring sessions?**

Programs understand that you will have scheduling conflicts. They just ask that you notify your student in advance.

**Do literacy programs have other volunteer opportunities in addition to tutoring?**

Yes. Most literacy organizations have a number of volunteer needs which may include proving administrative support, fundraising, interviewing students and serving on a board of directors.

**How can I become a volunteer tutor?**

Call the **Lewis & Clark Literacy Council (406) 324-2111**

**815 Front St Helena, MT 59601**

**Email [icliteracy@gmail.com](mailto:icliteracy@gmail.com)**