

fast FACTS...

about Sedgwick County Government



July 2007

Certified Literate Community Program

Sedgwick County
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Background

The State of Georgia addresses issues of community literacy through a Certified Literate Community Program (CLCP). CLCP asks a community to establish a non-profit collaborative to promote, support and enhance community literacy efforts locally.

The program was created in 1990 with five pilot communities; today there are 58 programs representing 69 counties and two cities. The mission of the CLCP is to mobilize every resource available to a community into a literacy campaign that functions within state certification guidelines and will result in a literate community.

The CLCP does not always function as a service provider but more likely is an organization that brings all sectors of the community together to more efficiently utilize resources currently available. The CLCP acts as a clearinghouse to move individuals needing service to the most appropriate program. Promotion of adult literacy services is a key component but community literacy is the goal.

Benefits of CLCPs

CLCPs are local, not state or federal, solutions to community literacy. Each community takes a customized approach by collaborating existing service providers for the greatest benefit of the community.

They emphasize how prioritizing the education of a community helps address other community issues such as crime, poverty, and substance abuse. Improving a community's literacy helps drive economic and workforce development.

CLCPs allow the providers time to teach. The CLCP provides the marketing for the community and work to connect the community where there is a need.

How it Starts

Implementation of a CLCP begins with a community assessment - surveys of business, social service providers, and through the elementary schools (surveys of elementary schools are viewed as ways to hook parents into the importance of literacy and assess the parents' education level).

CLCPs do not replace the existing service providers and seek their own funding primarily through grants and fundraising. An overall increase in funding has been realized as collaborative efforts are viewed more favorably than a one entity applicant by granting agencies.

Through this structure, the CLCP has secured funding to pursue innovative community literacy projects. The model provides an opportunity for creativity as each CLCP can serve the community in ways the current providers can't.

Examples

Cobb County Literacy Council

Cobb County, population—654,000

- Annual budget of \$153,714 primarily grant funded with new fundraisers in progress
- Addressing volunteer needs by hiring a volunteer coordinator
- Office located at chamber of commerce
- Two staff members

Certified Literate Is Coweta's Key (CLICK)

Coweta County, population—120,000

- Annual budget of \$38,000 primarily funded through fundraisers, donations and grants
- Provides marketing as well as tutors and volunteers for adult education to providers
- Office located within the school system
- 23 volunteers and two part-time staff

Winder-Barrow Coalition for Adult and Continuing Education

Barrow County, population—46,144

- Annual budget of \$20,000 funded through grants, fundraisers and community support
- Purchases supplies, recruits volunteers and provides public awareness for providers
- Office located at the technical college
- Eight volunteers and one staff member funded by the school district



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