



## WHAT WE DO:

*The Chinatown-Lower East Side Literacy Zone* is comprised of an exceptionally strong network of partners situated in Manhattan's Chinatown and Lower East Side neighborhoods, all of whom are committed to working closely together to address the literacy needs of the community and to providing the tools necessary to create multiple pathways out of poverty. Our Literacy Zone uniquely adapts the Settlement model, which is built around the integration of a full menu of diverse services to address the complex needs of all participants.



In the Chinatown-Lower East Side Literacy Zone, learning is constantly placed within a real-life context to ensure that students have the skills needed to compete in the workplace, assist their children's educational development, foster their families' health, secure their finances, and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Because of the immigrant nature of our neighborhood, an emphasis has been placed on serving students for whom English is not the primary language.

University Settlement and the Chinatown-Lower East Side Literacy Zone community are committed to strengthening families through increased literacy and English language proficiency.

## WHO WE SERVE:

503 participants attending ESOL classes for an average of 200 hours per year.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

The primary Family Welcome Center can be found at 175 Eldridge Street, the location of University Settlement's Adult Literacy Program, which is centrally located and well-known throughout the Zone.



## ABOUT LITERACY ZONES:

Literacy Zones are a reform initiative developed by the New York State Board of Regents and the State Education Department to close the achievement gap in urban and rural communities of concentrated poverty and high concentrations of families and individuals with limited literacy or English language proficiency. Literacy Zones are intended to provide a systemic focus on meeting the literacy needs of communities, from birth through adulthood. The New York State Education Department has identified 18 Literacy Zones across the State.

## IN OUR FIRST YEAR:

**100%** of program participants who established a goal of either finding employment or attending post-secondary education achieved those goals.

**69 interagency referrals** for ESOL classes were made for individuals who were better suited for other ESOL programs.

**48 applications, forms and verification documents** were completed for services including child care, job training, financial assistance and housing.

**365 students attended educational workshops** on topics including oral health, nutrition, sustainability, finance and career development. Additionally, 11 students engaged in civic activities.

**26 students** participated in Peer Tutoring with a **4:9 tutor-to-student ratio**.

**59 clients received counseling** and 47 clients received referrals to outside programs.

**90 referrals** were written for services including job training/resume writing, English/computer classes, citizenship classes, legal services, pre-GED and GED classes, child care, housing assistance, CUNY, health care and HRA. Additionally, referrals were submitted for library cards, passports, and licenses.

**61%** of students made an educational gain of one level on the Federally-mandated Best Plus or TABE tests.

