



1600 South Ave. Rochester, New York 14620

[www.literacyrochester.org](http://www.literacyrochester.org)

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## FACT SHEET

### *Our Mission*

*Literacy Volunteers of Rochester Inc. improves the reading, English language, math and digital literacy skills of adults in Monroe County. Our trained volunteers support participants in achieving their personal goals to fully participate in their community as citizens, parents, consumers and workers.*

#### **Board Officers**

President	Margaret Sánchez
Vice President	Richard Nangreave
Secretary	Sara Ashcraft
Treasurer	Kim Emilo, CPA

#### **Organization**

LVR is a 501-(c) (3) not-for-profit organization founded in 1964 and incorporated in 1971. LVR is governed by a volunteer board of directors, which meets 5 times per year, with five standing committees.

#### **Volunteers, staff and budget**

- In the 2015/2016 program year, 304 trained volunteers contributed 16,453 hours of service to LVR, providing services to 1024 participants.
- LVR has four full-time and three part-time staff who support our volunteers and programs.
- LVR has an annual operating budget of \$370,000 (2016/2017).

#### **Key statistics**

- 57% of Rochester residents over the age of 16 are only at the “Basic” level of literacy, which is equivalent to expectations for 6<sup>th</sup> graders (National Institute for Literacy, 2003).
- 60% of online job applications are not completed due to their complexity or length according to a recent workforce study.
- 32% of Rochester residents have no internet access and 19% have no computer at home.
- Rochester is the 5<sup>th</sup> poorest city in the country, and in the city 46% of our children are poor.
- People living in poverty are 40% more likely to be low literate. Over 70% of incarcerated individuals do not have a high school diploma.

#### **Participants**

- Services are free to all participants

- LVR participants are adults and all services are provided in public places.
- Instructional participants are 18 years or older and no longer in school. They must have reading or math skills at or below the ninth grade level or have limited English skills to qualify. NYS Education certified tests are used to assess all instructional participants.
- Digital Literacy participants are adults seeking assistance with digital challenges including basic computer literacy, online forms and applications.

### **Their stories**

- An immigrant who comes to LVR to learn English so that he is better able to understand his co-workers at his 2 jobs and also has a long term goal for citizenship.
- A high school drop-out who is currently working part time at a minimum wage job while working with a tutor to improve math or reading scores to take her high school equivalency or enter a vocational training program such as nursing.
- Recently unemployed workers who have never applied for a job online or even established an email account.
- Adults left behind by the digital divide need help accessing online information about benefits, employment or consumer information.
- A parent who has her own literacy challenges but wants to learn how to support literacy for her preschool son.

### **LVR programs**

Trained volunteers enable LVR to make its services available. Each volunteer attends a Preview session, where they get an overview of the agency and volunteer opportunities. Volunteers receive training and support relevant to their role. Our programs include:

- **One-to-one tutoring** in which a qualifying adult student, based on the individual goals, is paired with a trained tutor. These tutoring pairs meet throughout Monroe County weekly.
- **Access** provides instruction to a small group in reading and math, for students do not meet minimum academic requirements and wish to enroll in a high school equivalency or vocational training programs. Access partners with the Rochester Educational Opportunity Center (REOC) downtown.
- **Digital Literacy**, a drop-in one-to-one, service in which immediate-services are provided for individuals lacking computer literacy skills. Volunteer “Navigators” provide assistance with applications, forms and documents. Current locations include the Arnett, Sully, Lincoln and Phyllis Wheatley branch libraries, the Greece Community Learning Center and the Veterans Outreach Center.
- **Family Literacy**, for small groups of parents or caregivers, who are taught the tools to promote literacy for their children, ages 3-7.