

# Literacy Is For Everyone (LIFE)

## Helping Fight Illiteracy Among Adults and Children

Imagine being an adult with a family and being unable to read even the simplest instructions on a job application. More than 80,000 adults in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area read at or below a first-grade reading level. Since its inception in 2006, the Literacy Is For Everyone (LIFE) initiative at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation has been enhancing literary services in central Oklahoma.

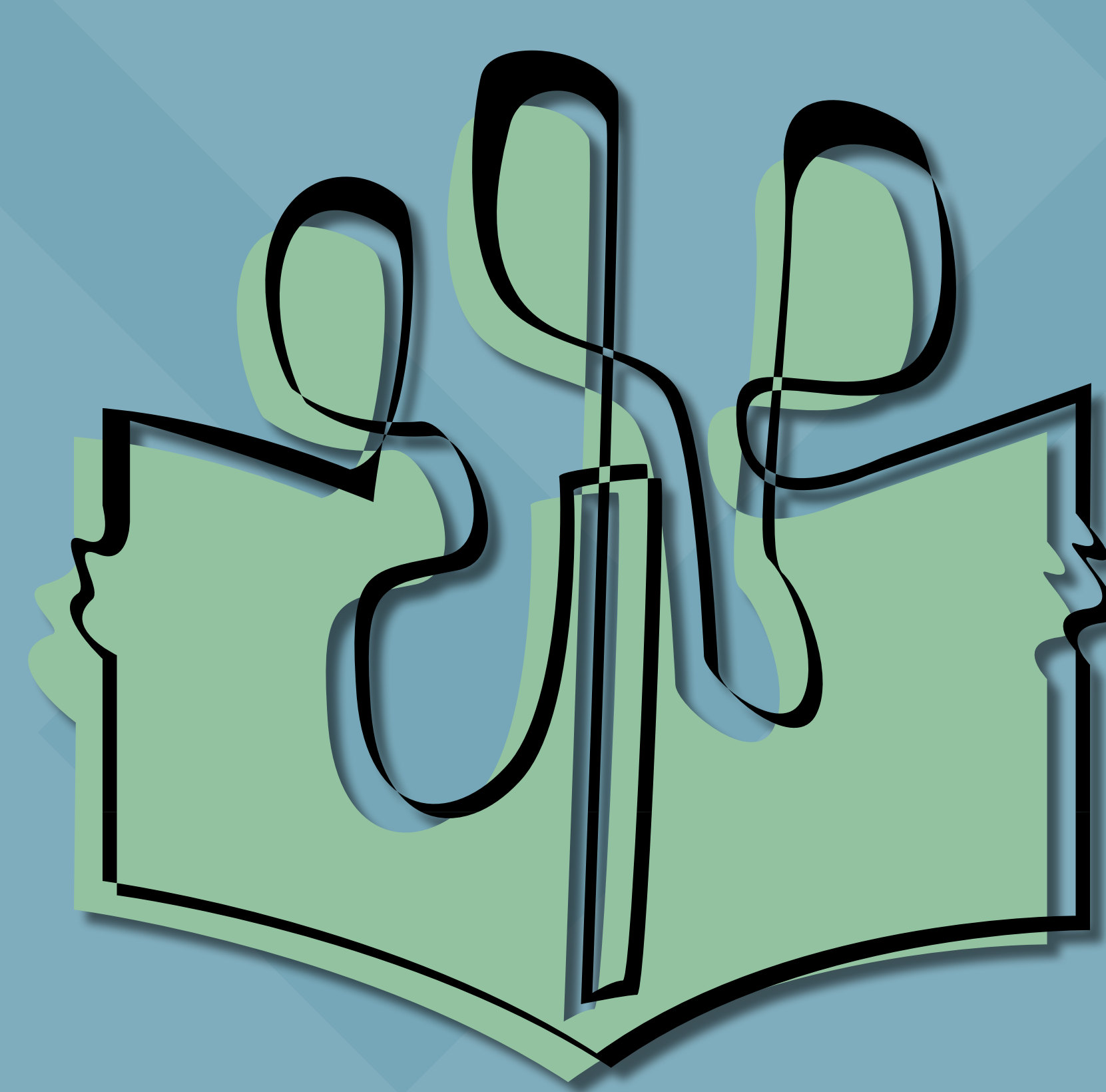
The LIFE program was created by the Trustees to assist organizations in providing opportunities for all children and adults to read, write and speak English at a functional level. The program gives all individuals the chance to speak and learn English for both economic independence and for dealing with basic legal, medical and consumer issues.

The initiative also seeks to prevent illiteracy in youth by encouraging families with children to read together and to ensure that children have basic reading skills in elementary school.

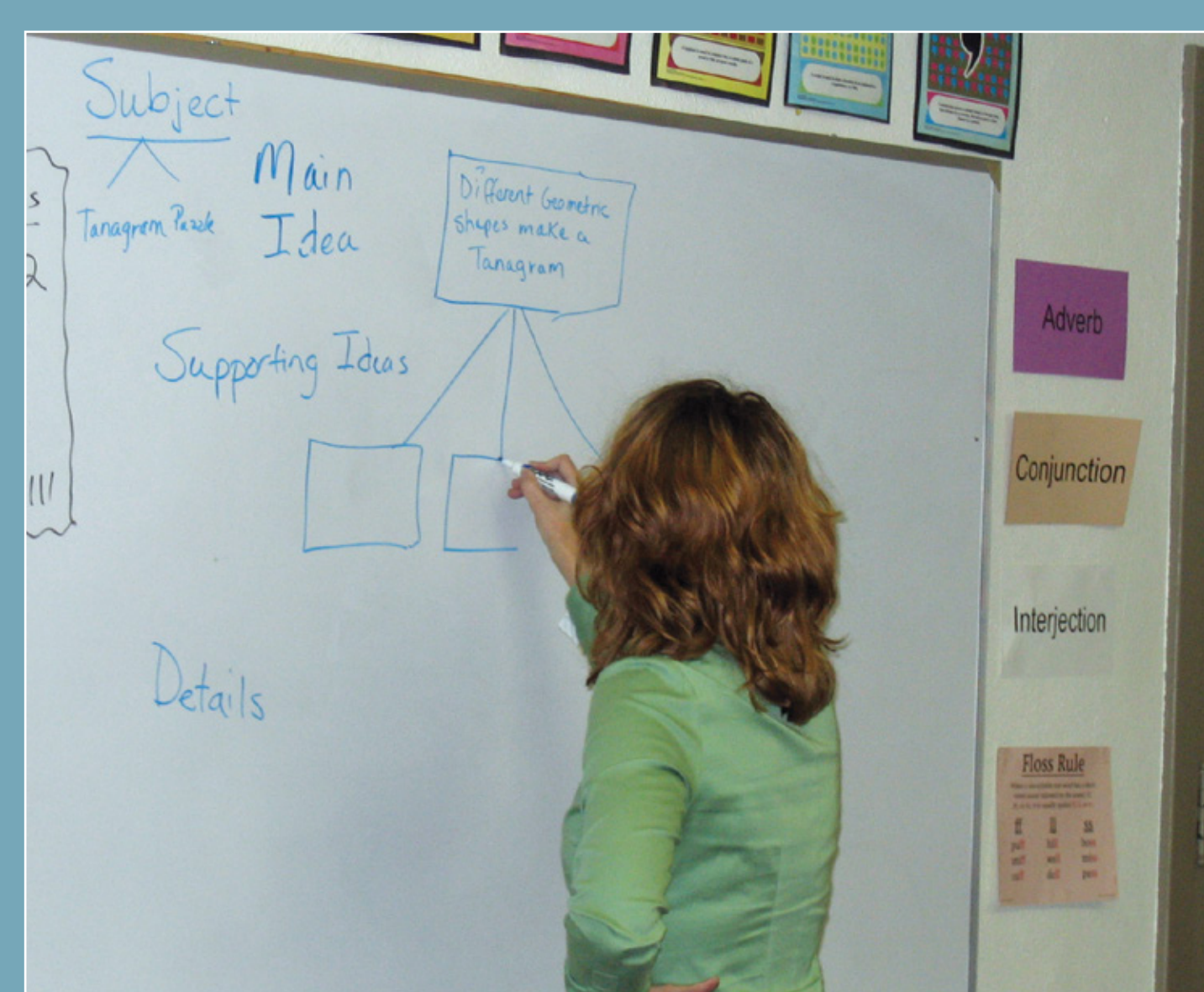
Another goal of LIFE is to build awareness in the community for literacy skills and to incorporate literacy into social services, job training and other rehabilitation programs. Efforts through LIFE also include helping to establish and coordinate the Oklahoma City Metro Literacy Coalition.

Through a grants component, the initiative provides funding for training, materials, awareness-building and administrative support to help improve the capacity of existing programs. LIFE not only awards grants, but also works directly with literacy and language providers to create a community strategy for improving literacy and encourages collaboration among literary organizations to increase client capacity and service options.

"If every time I come here I learn one word, two word[s], it's better," says Mwaura, a 60-year-old custodial worker at Oklahoma Christian University and a student in a free literacy class for non-English speaking employees funded by a LIFE grant. "Practice makes perfect," he adds.



**OKC** METRO  
**LITERACY**  
COALITION



Metro area literacy organizations use both classroom style teaching and one-on-one tutoring to assist adult learners.

