

## **Executive Summary**

The Charleston Literacy Roundtable (CLR) is a coordinating group and clearing-house to focus community attention on the critical importance of high levels of literacy across the community. We advocate for public policy that supports literacy for all. We facilitate the eradication of illiteracy in our community through sustained awareness of the needs within our community. We identify areas of unmet need and help reduce duplication of effort. We promote improved levels of literacy through the development of community resources to meet identified needs.

To facilitate systemic change, specific target populations have been identified so that appropriate tactics and strategies can be developed to facilitate the eradication of illiteracy in our community. These focus areas are:

- Pre-School Children
- School Children
- Targeted Populations not easily categorized
- Adults

The core strategies utilized:

- Identify and advocate for public policy at the local, state, and national levels that supports the elimination of illiteracy.
- Build and maintain awareness of and attention to the practical importance of high levels of literacy to the wellbeing of the community
- Identify and network community resources to eradicate illiteracy and raise literacy levels.
- Identify gaps in service in the area of literacy-building and facilitate resource development

## Strategic Plan (V3.1)

### Rationale for Literacy

"To read is to fly: it is to soar to a point of vantage which gives a view over wide terrains of history, human variety, ideas, shared experience and the fruits of many inquiries," writes Professor Anthony C. Grayling. Reading is the fundamental learning skill through which most other formal learning is built. Beyond learning, literacy is a quality of life issue for individuals and families. For the entire community, literacy is the key to a viable workforce, vibrant economic development, and a strong social fabric.

### Mission

Eradicate illiteracy and raise the level of literacy in all target populations in the community.

### Theory of Action

The Charleston Literacy Roundtable (CLR) is not a management group or a service delivery organization. Rather, the CLR is a coordinating group and clearing-house to focus community attention on the critical importance of high levels of literacy across the community. We advocate for public policy that supports literacy for all. We facilitate the eradication of illiteracy in our community through sustained awareness of the needs within our community. We identify areas of unmet need and help reduce duplication of effort. We promote improved levels of literacy through the development of community resources to meet identified needs.

### Points of Focus

Literacy issues are addressed in very different ways depending on the segment of the population. For purposes of strategic planning, the populations on which we will focus are specified so that appropriate tactics and strategies can be employed.

Pre-School Children (encourage language development and ensure readiness for school)

- ages 0-3
- ages 4-5

Primary Stakeholder: hospitals, pediatricians, pre-school providers, school district, parents, community-based organizations

School Children (raise high school graduation and college-going rates)

- ages 5-8 (ensure every child is a proficient reader by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)
- ages 9-13 (ensure every child is reading-ready for high school)
- ages 14-18 (ensure every child is reading-ready for college)

Primary Stakeholder: school district, private and parochial schools, parents, community-based organizations

Targeted Populations (optimize the role they play and the contributions they make to the community)

- incarcerated adults
- incarcerated youth
- disabled, group home residents
- homeless
- victims of abuse
- teen parents
- dropouts

Primary stakeholders: school district, community-based organizations, government agencies.

#### Adults

- workforce (improve the quality of the local workforce, attract better job opportunities to the community)
- English as a Second Language (more fully integrate all members of the community in the social, work, and educational life of the community.)
- parents (improve parents' ability to be their child's first teachers)
- post-secondary education

Primary Stakeholder: school district, higher education, community-based organizations, government agencies

#### Core strategies

- Public Policy – identify and advocate for public policy at the local, state, and national levels that supports the elimination of illiteracy. Support for universal four-year-old kindergarten is an example.
- Awareness and Communication – build and maintain awareness of and attention to the practical importance of high levels of literacy to the wellbeing of the community and its commitment to erase illiteracy.
- Mobilization of Resources – identify, link together, and help bring to bear community resources to eradicate illiteracy and raise literacy levels in the community.
- Development of Resources – identify gaps in service in the area of literacy-building and identify under-served populations to facilitate resource development and eliminate the gaps.