

# Volunteer English Program in Chester County

## English Language and Cultural Instruction

Presented to:  
Chester County Economic  
Development Council Task Force

Topic: Supporting and Retaining a  
Multi-Cultural Workforce

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At a time when the nationwide focus on immigration issues has created great uncertainty and a sense of urgency for non-native English speakers to learn the language and culture, the Volunteer English Program remains a constant, underlying source of support to the business community through the advanced economic and personal gains made by adults living and/or working in Chester County.



The program provides a 1:1, individualized, non-classroom approach to adult language learning, made available through VEP-trained tutors and 3.4 FTE staff, teaching 12 hours a month through a seven-day-a-week, morning-to-evening schedule at locations close to a student or tutor's work or home.

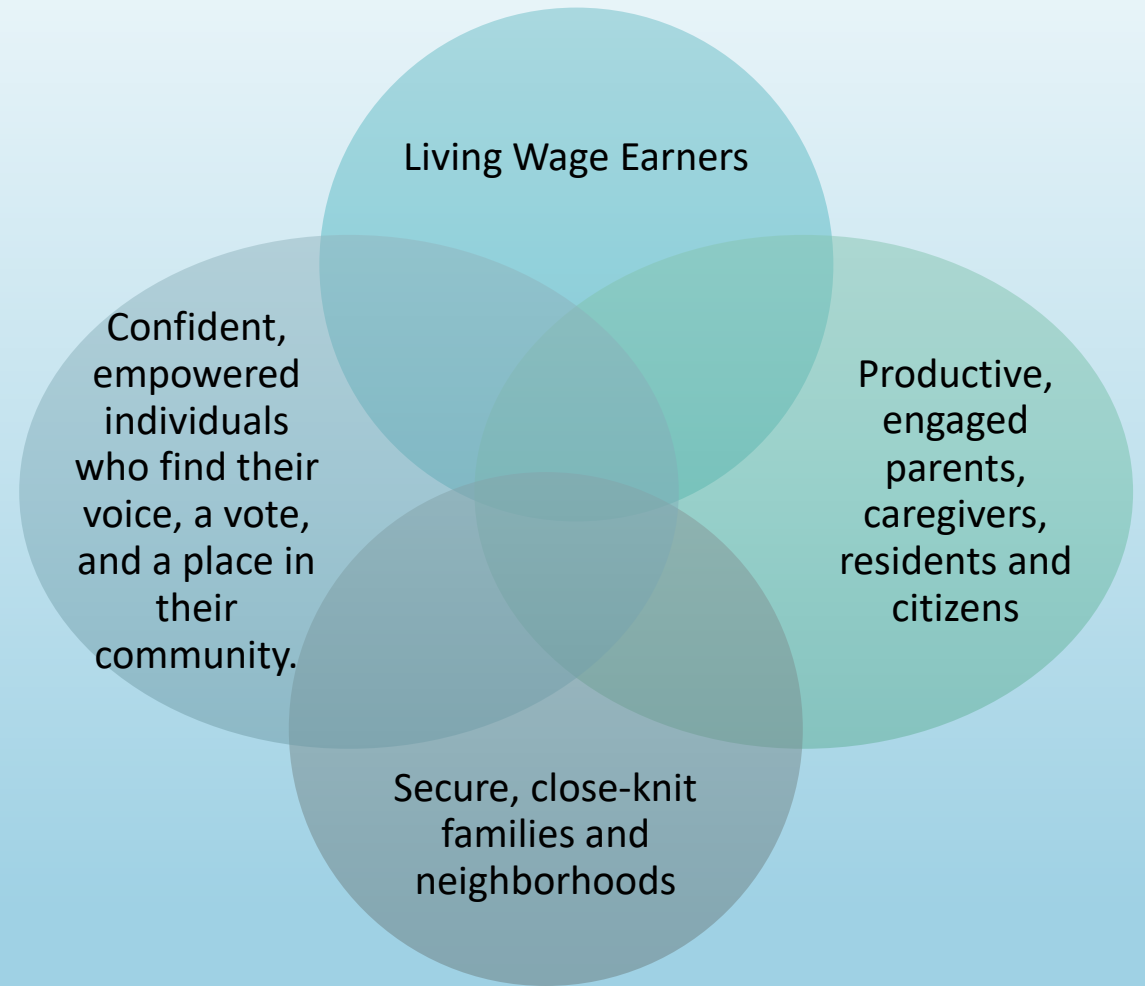


The program also offers on-site ESL group instruction, based on an individualized model, for employers and employees in Chester County.

Volunteer English Program strives to eliminate the barriers to instruction, such as time, income, transportation, native literacy, or residency status, which are often typical within the immigrant experience.

## Introduction

- VEP supports adults as new English language learners on a one or more year basis as personal and professional goals are achieved and evolve.
- VEP maintains formal and informal partnerships with community organizations and businesses to promote safe instructional spaces.
- VEP learners become multi-lingual, English proficient members of the Chester County and regional community.
- VEP learners and their tutors increase personal and professional levels of cultural competency.
- VEP participants create a diverse, valuable and talented labor force.
- VEP participants strive for a balanced work-family lifestyle.



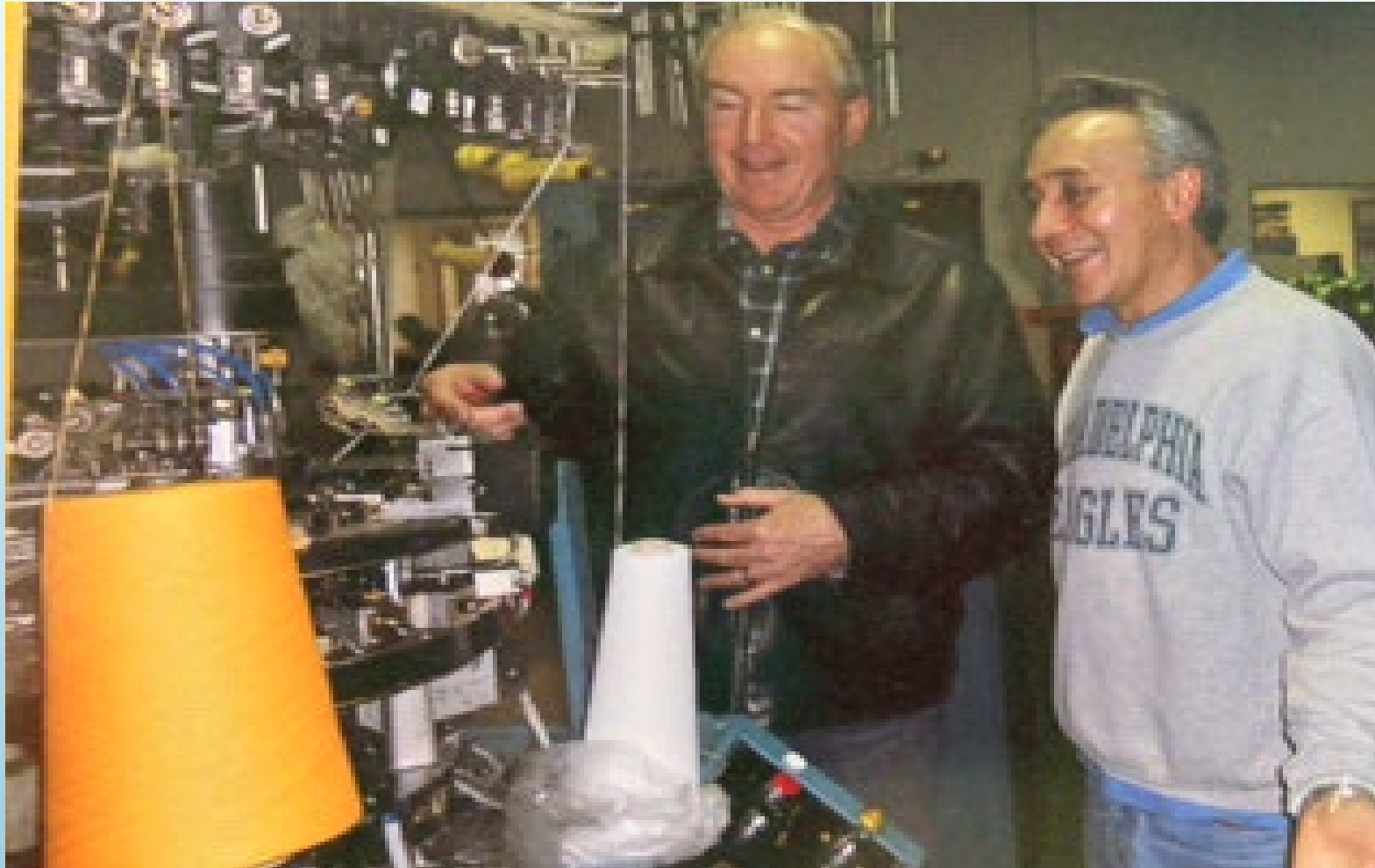
## VEP Outcomes and Services

Languages spoken by VEP community:

**38 of over 60 languages spoken in Chester County homes, including...**

- **Ahmaric**
- **Arabic**
- **Chinese**
- **Farsi**
- **Vietnamese**
- **Spanish**
- **Urdu**
- **Korean**
- **French**
- **Portuguese**
- **Russian**

English becomes the common bond among diverse employees



Tutors and Students Matching and Working in the Field



VEP Students sharing VEP information in their workplace



VEP Provides On Site ESL Instruction

<b>Why VEP Tutoring is Successful Compared to other Approaches</b>	<b>VEP 1:1 Tutor</b>	<b>ESL Group Study</b>	<b>Self-Study</b>
Evidence-based approach to adult language learning	X	X	
Learner centered	X	X	X
Learner goal focused	X	X	X
7/365 immersion learning and field experience	X		
Flexible, personalized instruction time	X		
Year-round intake, assessment, tutor vetting, and matching cycles	X	X	
Free and inclusive regardless of income, residency status or language literacy or proficiency	X		

## How does VEP Compare?

**Native work experience:**

Accounting  
Economist  
Teaching  
Banking  
Science & Research  
Pharmaceutical  
Marketing



**U.S. positions:**

Accounting  
Agriculture  
Housekeeping  
Health Care Providers  
Manufacturing  
Machinist  
Software Systems Engineering  
Shipping

Chester County opportunities filled by VEP students

## Employees as Tutors

- English speaking employees attend one of VEP's annual, 9-hour professional tutor training workshops
- Commit to teaching 1 or more adult learners 3 hours per week for at least 1 year
- Help a co-worker to become familiar with American culture

## Businesses as VEP Partners

- Host information sessions for employees
- Provide free work space for 1:1 tutor pairs to meet publicly and confidentially
- Support VEP through CCEDC for onsite programming and underwriting to strengthen the Chester County community

## How to Get Started

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