



Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program

Fall 2025

Newsletter

A Message from the Director

Dear Students, Staff, and Community Partners,

We have begun a new year at the Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program (JPCCALP) and I want to take a moment to welcome both our returning and new students, as well as to thank our dedicated staff and community partners for their continued support and collaboration. Each new year brings fresh opportunities for learning, growth, and connection—and I am excited for all that lies ahead.

At JPCCALP, we believe that education is a lifelong journey that opens doors to opportunity and strengthens our community. Whether you are working toward improving your English, earning your high school credential, or preparing for a new career path, please know that our team is here to support you every step of the way.

This year, we continue to focus on providing high-quality, student-centered instruction and creating an inclusive, welcoming environment where everyone feels valued. We also look forward to deepening our partnerships with local organizations to expand access to resources and opportunities that empower our learners both inside and outside the classroom.

Thank you for being part of our learning community. Let's make this a year of achievement, discovery, and continued growth—together.

Best to all,

Dr. Joyce E. Henderson, Director

JPCC/ALP

20 South Street

Jamaica Plain

Massachusetts 02130

Information Number: (857) 728-0400

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For enrollment information:

Enrollment | JPCCALP_Site

Website: <https://www.jpadulted.org/>



Community Meet & Greet Brings Inspiration and Connection to JPCCALP

On October 24, 2025, the Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program (JPCCALP) hosted a vibrant and engaging Community Meet & Greet—an event that truly showcased the power of connection, storytelling, and community partnership. Thanks to the enthusiastic participation of attendees, the gathering was a tremendous success. We were honored to welcome an outstanding lineup of guest speakers whose messages left a lasting impact:

Henry Santana, Boston City Councilor At-Large
Kerry Costello, Chairperson, Jamaica Plain Community
Centers Board of Directors
Dr. Joyce Henderson, Director, JPCCALP
Nidia Hernandez, Former Student and Poet

Each speaker offered insightful reflections on adult education, equity, and the importance of accessible learning pathways. Their words reinforced our shared commitment to empowering adult learners and building a more inclusive Boston.

Throughout the event, guests had the opportunity to connect with JPCCALP staff, share ideas, and learn more about ways to support and engage with our free ESOL, HiSET, and CNA offerings. We were especially grateful for the community members and partners who expressed interest in collaborating, volunteering, and strengthening the services we provide.

Events like these remind us that learning doesn't happen in isolation—it grows within a network of support, encouragement, and shared purpose. Together, we continue to foster a welcoming community where adults of all backgrounds can pursue their goals and thrive.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to this meaningful gathering. We look forward to staying connected and hope to see you at future JPCCALP events!

Thank you,
JPCCALP Staff

Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program



Fabienne N.
Recipient of the 12th
Annual English for New
Bostonians Raising Our
Voices
October 29, 2025

Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program Fabienne studied a little English in Haiti, but needed much more when she enrolled in the Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program three years ago. Now in level 4, she also completed the CNA Training last year and is currently looking for a job at a nursing facility. She lives in Boston with her husband and son. Fabienne is grateful for her son's opportunities in the United States, as well as the community her family has found here. Her teacher Meghan McBain says, "Fabienne works hard, and she also creates a comfortable class environment by sharing her amazing sense of humor and fantastic conversational skills with everyone."

Adult Basic Education

Mary Jones, Adult Basic Education Instructor (HiSET)

Our HiSET program is off to an exciting start this year with a significantly larger class than usual and many new students joining us. This strong enrollment not only reflects the growing interest in earning a high school equivalency diploma, but also highlights the success of our continued outreach efforts.

According to instructor Mary Jones, "This has been the best HiSET class I've taught so far—an encouraging sign of the enthusiasm, dedication, and community spirit within the group. We look forward to welcoming even more learners as the program continues to grow."

Former student shares an encouraging word

Communication is very important for everyone—but for immigrants it is vital. When we come to a new country, language is our biggest challenge. That's why this program, the Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program means so much to me. It gave me the chance to study English at all levels, and that changed my life. I want to thank all the wonderful teachers I had—and the entire staff who make this program possible every day – you are doing amazing work.

Today, I help many immigrant seniors and their families here in Jamaica Plain.

This is my way to give back, and to share the good things I have received in this country. The United States is a great country. Let's take care of it together—with respect, kindness, and community.

Thank you so much for your support. You are helping people like me find our voice and build a better future,

Marisela Valero
October 2025



Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program

Certified Nursing Assistant Training Spotlight: Divine Watch Training School, LLC

This year, the Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program (JPCC/ALP) is proud to announce its partnership with Divine Watch Training School, LLC. Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program is excited to collaborate with Divine Watch and looks forward to continued opportunities that will enhance student access to high-quality healthcare training, empower career growth, and strengthen pathways into the healthcare workforce.

As part of this collaboration, JPCCALP will offer ESOL contextualized training designed to support English learners as they prepare for the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program. This integrated approach helps students strengthen their language skills while mastering medical terminology and CNA-specific content, ensuring they enter training well-prepared and confident.

Together, Divine Watch and JPCCALP are committed to developing highly skilled nursing assistants and helping students build strong, sustainable careers in healthcare. Through rigorous training, hands-on learning experiences, contextualized ESOL instruction, and a shared dedication to excellence, this partnership aims to elevate the standard of nursing assistant education and support the growing demand for compassionate, well-prepared healthcare professionals.



Micaela Harari
Morning ESOL Level 1
Instructor

Micaela is a life-long language learner and enthusiast. She has lived in the Middle East for several decades and speaks Hebrew and some Arabic along with French, Spanish and English. She has taught English to adults and children informally for several years. She is delighted to share her experience and knowledge with ALP students and to help them achieve their goals. She has a BA in History and an MSW in Community Social Work. She has worked with a variety of immigration and community service non-profits in the US and abroad. Micaela is also a professional flamenco dancer and teacher. For her, communication is the name of the game - body, mind, and soul!.

Welcome To New Staff



Emmanuel Aning
ESOL Instructor
Rafael Hernandez School

Emmanuel is a committed educator who possesses great people and teaching skills. He has taught English to language learners for over a decade. He has also taught students in South Korea, Moldova, and Vietnam. He demonstrates respect and tolerance for people regardless of their cultural backgrounds and beliefs. He continues to learn from others in an effort to reach his ultimate capacity.



Brian Harris
College and Career Advisor

Brian, a Roxbury native, holds a B.A. in Business Administration from Clark Atlanta University and an M.Ed. from Cambridge College. He spent over a decade in hospitality management before joining Boston Public Schools in 2016 as a Career and Technical Education teacher. Licensed as a School Adjustment Counselor with expertise in trauma support, he has also contributed to multiple workforce development programs in Boston. Currently pursuing his LMHC, Brian remains dedicated to supporting and uplifting his community.

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Welcome To New Staff



Manjia Kobba
Contextual ESOL Instructor

An experienced Social Development Practitioner, Policy Analyst, and Program Manager, Manjia holds a Master's in Sustainable International Development and a Bachelor's in Political Science. A passionate advocate for women and girls' education, diversity, and equity, and brings a collaborative, inclusion-driven approach to advancing social impact and empowering communities.



Liam McCarthy
Evening Lead ESOL Instructor,
Morning Level 4 ESOL
Instructor & Evening Level 3
ESOL Instructor

Liam earned his Bachelor's degree in English from Salem State University. He is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Massachusetts, Boston with a focus on education and entrepreneurship. He is a small business owner and has a background in urban public education. Liam has worked for the City of Chelsea, MA, the African Center for Education in Worcester, MA, and Bunker Hill Community College in Charlestown, MA. Liam is happy to be a part of the JPCC team serving new immigrants and the Boston community.



Abbye Meyer (she/her) has spent her career teaching, learning, and working with education- and community-based nonprofit organizations. She recently published *From Wallflowers to Bulletproof Families: The Power of Disability in Young Adult Narratives*, and she holds a PhD in English from the University of Connecticut, an MPhil from the University of Glasgow, and an AB from Dartmouth College. Abbye is thrilled to join the JPCC ALP team to support those learning English in her community.



Abbye Meyer
ESOL Instructor
Jamaica Plain Neighborhood
Development Corp. (JPNDC)

Happy Holidays to all!

And a special thank you to our funders
and partners



City of Boston
Mayor Michelle Wu



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