



## 2024–2025 County Board of Supervisors Report

### Agency Name: Jefferson County Literacy Council (JCLC)

Programs: Adult Education – English Language (ESL), GED/HSED Preparation, Citizenship

#### Correctional Education Programming

After a prolonged hiatus due to COVID and facility renovations, JCLC resumed regular programming at the Jefferson County Jail in January 2025. Key achievements:

- 50 justice-involved individuals completed intake, orientation, pre-assessment, and 12+ instructional hours.
- 16 participants earned OSHA-10 Workplace Safety certifications.
- 7 My GED accounts were initiated or transferred to community access.
- 2 individuals completed their GED after starting at the jail.
- 12 GED Ready/Official tests administered using restored mobile GED test site, supported by a certified JCLC test administrator.

#### Community-Based Programming

JCLC exceeded its goal of serving 175 clients, supported by community partnerships, volunteers, and funding from United Way, private donors, and local events. Numbers for the 2024-2025 are being finalized. JCLC had 230+ enrollments in Adult Learning opportunities in 2024-2025.

##### Citizenship

- 5 new U.S. citizens welcomed since July 2024.
  - *Adriadna* earned a \$600 employer bonus by obtaining citizenship.
  - Two candidates await USCIS interviews.
- Citizenship demand is rising amid changing federal requirements.



##### GED/HSED

Two GED candidates completed a GED/HSED this year. A 41-year-old father from Watertown is on track to complete his credential with honors.

##### English Language Learning (ESL)

Community Connection Events followed each 6-week session:

Tours of Bridges Library, MATC-Fort Atkinson, Job Service Center, and UW-Extension and bilingual guest speakers from UMOS and Rock River Community Clinic were highlights.



##### Technology and Digital Literacy

A total of 22 laptops distributed through a Wisconsin Literacy tech grant (goal: 40 by 2026).



*Community Connections Top: Newest US Citizen, Middle: MATC Health Lab Tour Bottom: WDW Tour*

## **Organizational Initiatives & Outcomes**

Improving efficiency and engagement, JCLC replaced the 36-week format: six 6-week sessions.

- Comparing October 2023 to October 2024:
  - Instructional hours increased from 376 to 530, showing greater engagement with shorter sessions.
- New instructional materials emphasize civic participation and community exploration.
- Focus for next year: increased speaking practice and conversation opportunities in instruction.

Instructional Enhancements in Corrections:

- Transition to new standardized tests.
- GED testing now includes online proctoring with lockdown browsers, generating diagnostics to better inform instruction.

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## **Volunteer and Partner Engagement**

- Strengthened partnerships with MATC and WDW to support GED/HSED access.
- Jefferson High School volunteers reviewed and improved translated website content.
- Volunteers now assist with classroom support and administrative tasks.
- Active volunteer-tutor pairs and training are tracked through the Achieve Database.

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## **Sustainability & Funding**

- 3 part-time staff (1.9 FTE) operate a lean but high-impact organization with an active, volunteer Board.
- Continued strong community presence, with 17 years at the same location, remains a key strength.
- Community-Based Programming is locally funded.
- The Correctional Education Program was awarded a 2026–2029 WIOA grant through WTCS. Combined with support from the County and Sheriff's Department, we met the increased Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for this cycle. Although an Award Letter was received, the current funding cycle is under review by OMB.

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## **Looking Ahead**

- JCLC celebrates its 30th anniversary in the coming year!
- Ongoing focus on:
  - Supporting clients through transitions in the GED and citizenship processes.
  - Leveraging data to improve outcomes.
  - Expanding community partnerships and volunteer engagement.

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## **Closing Note**

JCLC remains a trusted, impactful resource for Jefferson County, thanks to the support of the County Board, Sheriff's Department, and community partners. With limited staff and high dedication, we continue to deliver personalized education that changes lives.