# Practitioner Toolkit: Working With Adult English Language Learners

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Acknowledgments

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The National Center for Family Literacy

The National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL) was established in 1989 with a grant from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust. Founded by current president Sharon Darling, NCFL began with a simple but ambitious mission: to help parents and children achieve their greatest potential together through quality literacy programs. Today, NCFL is recognized worldwide as the leader in family literacy development. NCFL works with educators and community builders through an array of services to design and sustain programs that meet the most urgent educational needs of disadvantaged families. (www.famlit.org)

Center for Applied Linguistics

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) is a private, non-profit organization involved in the study of language and the application of linguistics research to educational, cultural, and social concerns. A major focus of CAL’s work is to encourage and improve language and literacy education in the United States. CAL carries out quantitative and qualitative research on language issues and evaluations of language programs; provides technical assistance to schools and school districts and professional development for teachers; and collects, analyzes, and disseminates information about language and culture.

CAL houses the Center for Adult English Language Acquisition (CAELA) Network, the only national center in the United States that focuses on adult ESL language and literacy issues. The mission of the CAELA Network is to help states that have recently begun serving adult English language learners build their capacity to improve the skills of teachers and administrators in adult English as a second language (ESL) programs. This, in turn, will help promote the success of the learners. The CAELA Network also makes research findings and research-based resources available to practitioners working with adult English language learners across the nation (www.cal.org/caela). The CAELA Network replaces the National Center for ESL Literacy Education (NCLE), which was operated by CAL from 1989 to 2004 and provided technical assistance to professionals working with adult English language learners. This toolkit was developed by NCLE staff.