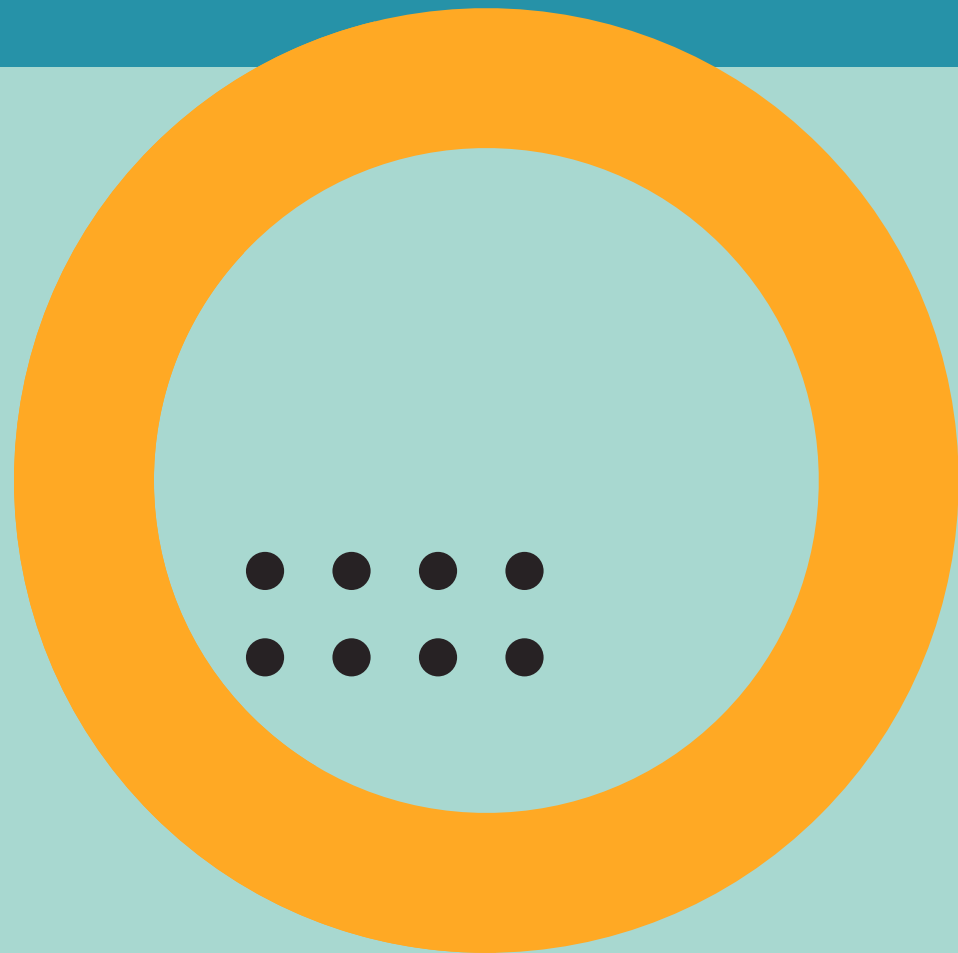




Read Santa Clara:  
Need for Funding Support



# The Community Need:



- **19% of adults in Santa Clara County lack basic literacy skills.**  
Low literacy impacts all aspects of life, including work, health, and their ability to support their children's education.
- **55% of Santa Clara City residents speak a language other than English and 16.7% have limited English language skills.**
- **1 in 5 children in Santa Clara Unified School District is an English language learner.**

# Our Library's Strategic Priorities and Read Santa Clara


## *Adults*

Adults will have the resources they need to explore topics of personal interest and continue to learn throughout their lives.

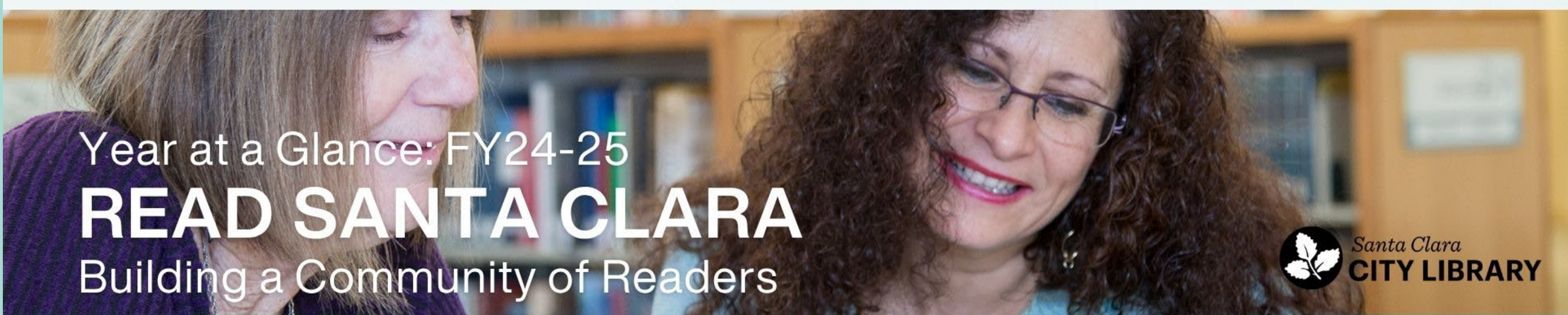
Adults will have convenient, timely access to a variety of new and popular materials.

&

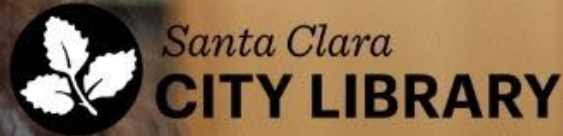
Adults can access services and resources to help them accomplish life goals, develop career and professional skills, and connect to their community.



# Our Services



Year at a Glance: FY24-25  
**READ SANTA CLARA**  
Building a Community of Readers



## Adult Literacy

Free one-to-one and small group tutoring for basic reading, writing and math.

**99 adult learners served**  
**1,344 tutoring sessions**  
**3,267 hours of instruction**



**65**  
**dedicated**  
**volunteers**

## Family Literacy

Programs designed to help parents and caregivers instill a love of reading in children.

**64 family literacy events**  
**339 adults & children served**  
**1,095 books given**



**3,887**  
**hours given**  
**by volunteers**

## English Language Learning

Language instruction offered to those with little or no English language skills.

**102 adult learners served**  
**329 in-person sessions**  
**932 hours of instruction**



**88%**  
**success for**  
**achieving a goal**

## Career Online High School

An opportunity for adults to earn a high school diploma and career certificate online.

**12 adult learners enrolled**  
**5 graduates of COHS**  
**1,680 hours of instruction**



## OUR IMPACT

178 of 201 Read Santa Clara learners met a goal.



Read a book or a newspaper: 87%



Share a book with a family member: 84%



Get a job or a better job: 73%



Access community resources: 79%



Understand health information: 63%



Learn basic tech skills: 50%



## An Adult Learner's Story:

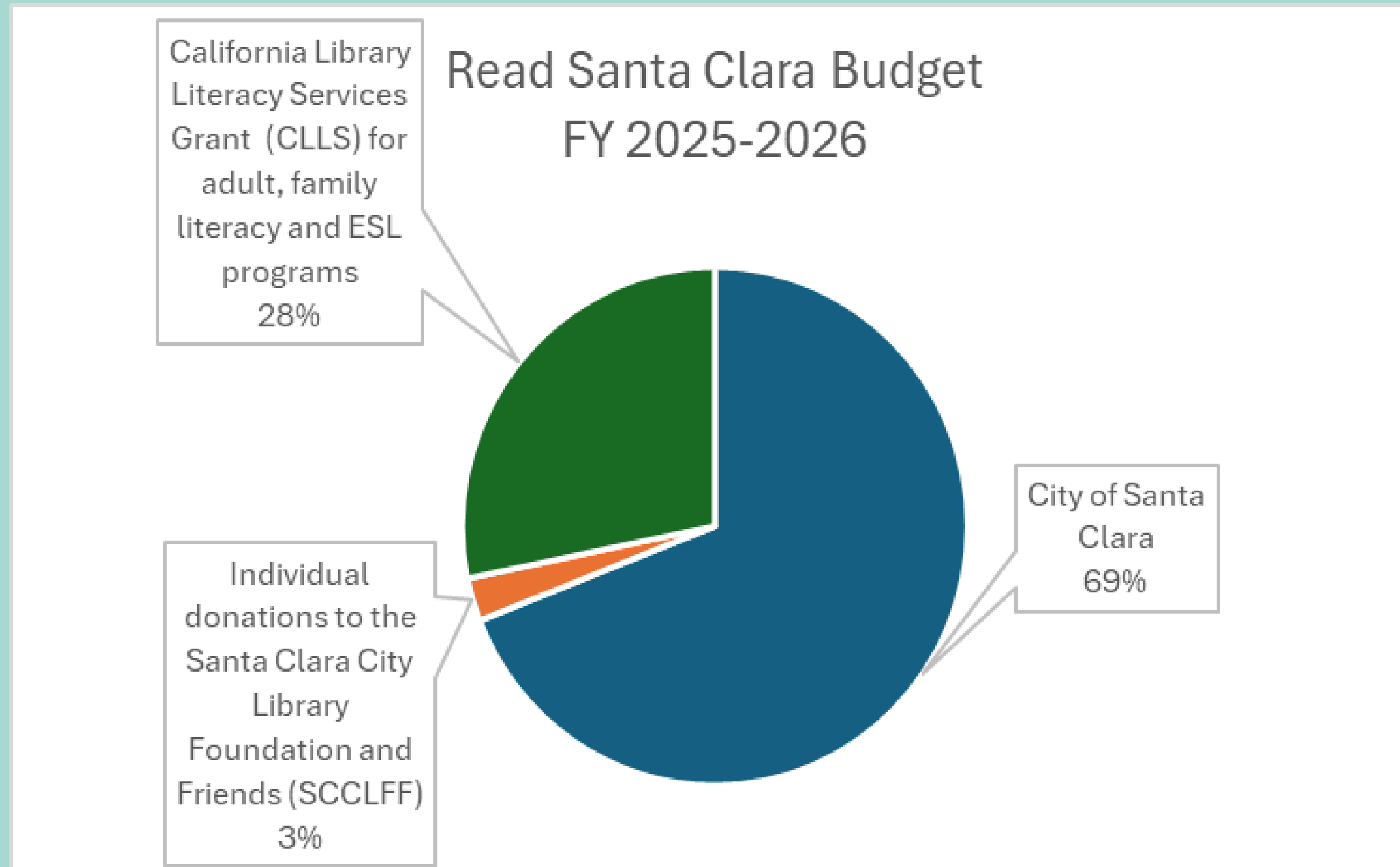
V.C. is a Spanish-speaker who attended small-group English language classes for parents at her child's school during school hours. Her son has special needs. She is unable to access other community ESL resources due to childcare restraints. Based on her goals, our sessions focused on using English to help her child at school and to advocate for him with his doctors.

The learner reported that during a doctor's appointment, she successfully expressed her concerns to her son's doctor in English.

We gave the learner a bilingual version of a book being read in her son's class. The learner read the book with her son.

She also asked for and received a library card. She expressed wanting to return to the class in the fall and requested that it be offered twice weekly.

# How Read Santa Clara is funded



## CLLS Grant:

- ESL
  - \$64,709 (36%)
- Adult and Family Literacy
  - \$115,361 (64%)

The California Library Literacy Services grant which funds 100% of Read Santa Clara's ESL services sunsets on June 30, 2026.

# Why does the library offer ESL tutoring for adults?

Per Census data, 16.7% Santa Clara residents (about 11,000) lack English language skills.

Currently, Santa Clara Adult Ed offers about 300 ESL seats, which is less than 3% of the need. Placement for ESL classes each quarter close soon after registration opens as classes get filled very quickly. Adults with little or no English skills often struggle in large classroom settings.

1 in 5 students in SCUSD is an English language learner.

Parents/caregivers with limited language skills, and transportation/child care constraints can't attend classes. Often they are non-library users. The library's ESL tutoring for parents serve as a gateway to introduce their families to library resources.

A [survey](#) found that in Santa Clara County restaurant workers are 63% were Latino and 23% were Asian. As they have limited English language skills, they are unable to advance their careers and advocate for themselves. The library can offer customized ESL tutoring to help restaurant workers gain essential language skills for work.

## Proposed ESL Services in FY 2026-27:

Read Santa Clara's ESL program will offer weekly small group classes and 1:1 tutoring to 120 adults with little or no English language skills to help them achieve goals such as communicating with their children's teachers or doctors, learning to speak better to get a job or advance in their careers and feel more confident communicating with others in their daily lives.

There would be small group classes offered at library branches and at a school site, in partnership with the Santa Clara Unified School District's Family Resource Center.

We would offer English for Restaurant Work classes for ESL learners, partnering with local restaurants.

## Our Urgent Need:

Read Santa Clara's ESL services need to be sustained past June 30, 2026.

We are currently seeking grants and donations through the Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends (SCCLFF).

SCCLFF has so far been notified about grant awards for Read Santa Clara from VTA, Proliteracy, and Applied Materials. The amount raised through grants so far is \$36,000, 52% of the funding needed for staffing ESL services through FY 2026-2027.

Without additional funding, we'll not be able to sustain the current level of ESL services through the next fiscal year.

## Request for Help:

- Please help spread the word in your networks about Read Santa Clara's services.
- Please let us know about potential individual donors and corporate or community foundation grants to sustain our ESL services for FY 2026-2027.

**Thank you!**