



CITY OF HOUSTON
Library Department

Interoffice

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**Subject: FAQ'S FOR AGENDA ITEM #25
FOR THE LIBRARY DEPARTMENT**

What is the focus of the Mayor's Office for Adult Literacy (MOAL)?

Established by the Mayor in June of 2018, MOAL will focus on adult literacy advocacy, adult literacy coalition building, and adult literacy efforts that impact the Houston economy, communities, families and individuals. The problem of adult literacy is a critical one in Houston - one in every 5 adults in Harris County is functionally illiterate. The MOAL will:

- Advocate for adult literacy and adult education causes and providers in the City of Houston.
- Develop partnerships to leverage resources to address adult illiteracy.
- Advise on public policies that place illiterate adults on a pathway to improve their lives.

What is the role of the Houston Public Library (HPL) with the MOAL?

MOAL operations will be managed by HPL, and MOAL staff will report to the HPL Director and coordinate directly with the Mayor and Mayor's Office. The MOAL will be located in HPL's Julia Ideson Building. Funding for MOAL is established as a separate cost center in the Library Special Revenue Fund and this cost center will capture all transactions for the MOAL and will be overseen by HPL.

How does the MOAL Mission differ from that of the Mayor's Office of Education (MOE)?

The MOE focuses on early childhood, school-age children and young adult education resources. The MOAL will focus on adult literacy and its' impact on the Houston economy. By 2020, 65% of all jobs will require a beyond-high-school education. MOAL will work towards closing the skills gap that currently exists and put Houston in stronger economic position for the future.

What is the status of the Houston Center for Literacy (HCL)?

The advocacy role led by HCL and previously the READ Commission will now be led by MOAL. HCL's educational programs were incorporated into other literacy provider programs. HCL was dissolved as a non-profit entity as of the August 31, 2018.

How will MOAL be funded?

Citgo Petroleum Corporation has generously donated \$300,000 for the launch of the MOAL in FY19. To sustain this important work, Houston City Council will be asked to vote to reallocate the annual \$400,000 budget currently designated for HCL in the COH Budget to MOAL for FY20 and beyond. There will be no new general fund dollars requested. This annual budget, along with its' fundraising efforts, will sustain the MOAL office.