

October 2026 Newsletter

Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program
Welcome to the 2026–2027 Academic Year!

Welcome to a new academic year at the Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program! We are delighted to have both returning and new students join our learning community. Whether your goal is to improve your English, earn your HiSET credential, prepare for a new career, or continue your educational journey, we are honored to be part of your path. Every new school year brings fresh opportunities to learn, grow, and achieve your goals.

At ALP, we believe that every student brings unique experiences, talents, and perspectives to the classroom. Our dedicated instructors, staff, and volunteers are committed to creating a welcoming, supportive, and engaging learning environment where everyone can succeed. We encourage you to participate fully, ask questions, support one another, and take advantage of the many resources available throughout the year.



As we begin this new chapter together, we look forward to celebrating your accomplishments—both big and small. Learning a new language, developing new skills, and pursuing your dreams takes determination and courage, and we are proud to be part of that journey. On behalf of the entire ALP team, welcome to the 2026–2027 school year. We wish you a successful, rewarding, and inspiring year ahead!

Dr. Joyce E. Henderson, Director

What to Expect this Year

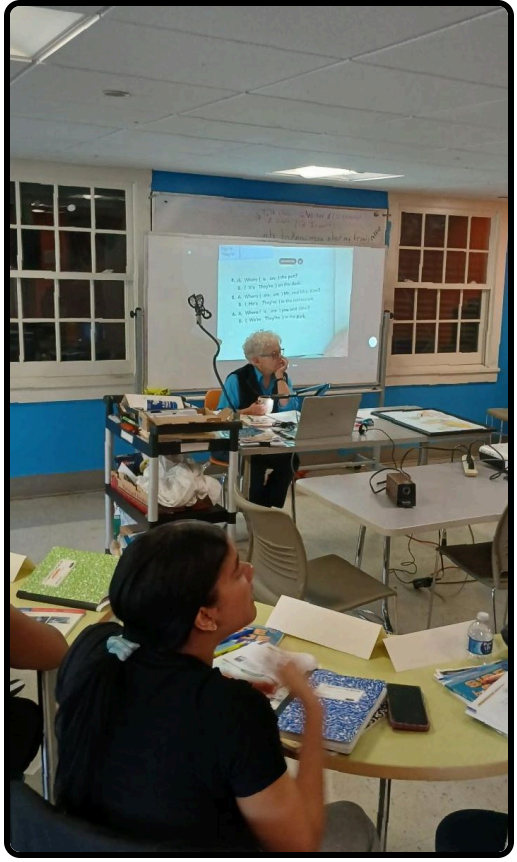
This year promises to be filled with opportunities to strengthen English language skills, build confidence, and achieve personal, educational, and career goals. Whether you are taking your first ESOL class or continuing your educational journey, our dedicated staff and instructors are committed to supporting you every step of the way.

Throughout the year, students can expect engaging classes that focus on real-world communication, digital literacy, workforce readiness, and academic success. In addition to our ESOL and HiSET classes, we will continue to offer specialized opportunities, including our Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training and our new Advanced Seminar class for students preparing for college or other post-secondary education. We will also provide workshops, and community events designed to connect students with valuable resources and help them become more engaged members of the community.

Student success remains at the heart of everything we do. Our instructors and staff will work closely with each student to monitor progress, celebrate achievements, and provide guidance throughout the year. We encourage students to attend classes regularly, participate actively, and take advantage of the many resources available through our program. Every class attended and every new skill learned brings students one step closer to reaching their goals.

This year also marks another chapter in our long-standing commitment to serving the Jamaica Plain community. For more than four decades, our program has empowered adult learners from around the world through education, and encouragement.

We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments and sharing your success. Let's make this school year one of growth, learning, and achievement for everyone.



Congratulations to all our CNA Students Who graduated over the Summer

We are thrilled to congratulate all of the students who successfully completed and passed the Certified Nursing Assistant training over the summer! This is an outstanding achievement and a true reflection of their hard work, determination, and commitment to building a brighter future. These students balanced their training with work, family responsibilities, and other educational commitments, making their success even more inspiring. The Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program is incredibly proud to celebrate this important milestone with each of them. We applaud their accomplishments and look forward to seeing them continue to grow, achieve their goals, and pursue exciting new opportunities in the healthcare field. Congratulations to all of our CNA graduates—we are so proud of you!



CNA Graduates (Certified Nursing Assistant)

Jean Bernard Jean C.
Over the summer, Jean successfully completed CNA training which will further expand his skills and knowledge in healthcare and direct care services. Jean also holds a Mental Health Certification and works closely with Haitian immigrants, providing essential social services and support to individuals and families in the community. His work includes helping clients access available resources, navigate social service systems, and address challenges related to adjusting to life in a new community. Through his combined experience in mental health, social services, and healthcare training, he is well positioned to provide culturally responsive support that promotes stability, self-sufficiency, and overall well-being.

Phylecia P.
Phylecia is a former HiSET student who successfully completed all Certified Nursing Assistant training requirements and earned her CNA certification over the summer. This achievement marks an important milestone in her educational and career pathway. She will continue her studies during the 2026–2027 academic year, demonstrating her ongoing commitment to advancing her education, strengthening her skills, and pursuing future career opportunities in the healthcare field.

Agnela A.
Agnela successfully completed and passed the Certified Nursing Assistant training over the summer. While participating in the CNA training, Agnela began attending a local community college, where she is studying science. Her successful completion of the CNA training, while pursuing college-level studies, demonstrates a strong commitment to advancing her education and preparing for future career opportunities in the healthcare field.

Marie Fabienne C.
Marie began her educational journey at the Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program in the Basic Literacy class approximately three years ago and has continued to make steady progress. Through her hard work and dedication, she advanced to Level 3 AM and became eligible to participate in the Certified Nursing Assistant training program. Over the summer, Marie successfully completed and passed the CNA training, marking an important milestone in her educational and career journey. Her progress from Basic Literacy to completing CNA training demonstrates her commitment to achieving her academic and professional goals.

Joseph Wildrick D.
Joseph has been a dedicated student in the Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program for the past two years, attending AM Level 2 classes and continuing to make progress toward his educational and career goals. Building on his experience in the program, Joseph transitioned into the Certified Nursing Assistant training and successfully completed and passed

the CNA training over the summer. His achievement represents an important step forward as he continues to develop his skills and pursue opportunities in the healthcare field.

Guertine L.
Guertine showed exceptional dedication and perseverance by successfully completing and passing the Certified Nursing Assistant training over the summer. As the mother of a one-year-old child, she balanced the responsibilities of caring for her family while working full time and managing a long commute to attend CNA Skills training. Her commitment to completing the training despite these demands reflects her determination to advance her education and pursue new career opportunities in the healthcare field. Her successful completion of the CNA training is an important achievement and a testament to her hard work and persistence.

Ismael J.
Ismael has demonstrated significant growth and dedication throughout his time with the Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program. He began his educational journey in Basic Literacy and, over the past two years, progressed to AM Level 2. Building on his commitment to achieving his career goals, he transitioned into the Certified Nursing Assistant training and successfully completed and passed the training over the summer. His journey from Basic Literacy to CNA training is a strong example of perseverance, hard work, and continued advancement toward educational and career success.

Jean Otterson J.
Jean, an AM ESOL Level 3 student, successfully completed and passed the Certified Nursing Assistant training over the summer. Among all the students who participated in the training, Jean demonstrated exceptional commitment by maintaining the best attendance record. He worked diligently throughout the program and remained focused on achieving his goals. His dedication, perseverance, and strong work ethic contributed greatly to his success in completing the CNA training and represent an important step forward in his educational and career journey.

Summer Class Reports

For the first time, the Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program (JPCC ALP) offered several classes over the summer, marking an exciting new step in expanding educational opportunities for our students. This initiative allowed us to continue supporting adult learners beyond the traditional academic year, providing additional opportunities to strengthen their English language skills, build confidence, and continue making progress toward their personal, educational, and career goals. By extending learning opportunities into the summer months, JPCC ALP demonstrated its commitment to meeting the needs of our diverse community and ensuring that students could maintain their momentum and remain connected to the program throughout the year.

A special thank you to the teachers who worked with students over the summer and for allowing us to share their successes with the larger Jamaica Plain Community Center Adult Learning Program community.

Level 3 PM Class

“I worked with about 8-12 Level 3 students between June-August. They were a fantastic group who were active in class discussions and eager to learn. We covered topics related to well-being, discussing finances, housing, shopping, doctor’s appointments and jobs. Throughout the scope of these topics, we played comprehension games, engaged with Burlington English modules and also engaged in a long-term unit project which 4 students completed. They chose between two mock scenarios: assisting a friend with the apartment search process or developing financial goals based on a budget. Their presentations also tested their digital literacy skills from the previous unit. Students who were not able to complete a long term project submitted unit quizzes and discussions about their peers’ projects to demonstrate their learning. All students made steady progress each week and grew in their progress towards proficiency.”

-Eunice Dolette

Level 1 AM Class

“I worked with nine Level 1 students at Archdale Community Center on Mondays and Fridays, all of whom were very communal, took diligent notes and dedicated themselves to their learning. Over the course of 3 weeks, we were able to cover topics like habits/routines, discussing one’s background, food/restaurants, preferences, shopping and asking for directions. Throughout the scope of these topics, we worked hard to improve students’ grammar and speaking skills. Our class focused on mastering concepts such as the present tense, present continuous, singular and plural, many vs. much, at/on/in and comprehending Wh- questions. I feel confident in students’ ability to grow their skills, particularly in speaking and writing. They are proactive in asking questions and seeking clarity. While students varied in skill and comfort with speaking in English, we accommodated their needs by providing more sentence stems, pronunciation practice and encouraging practice at home through videos and worksheets. Some students were able to attend more regularly, while others attended for part of the class time due to work and family commitments.”

-Eunice Dolette

Level 1 PM Class

"Our 6-week ESOL Level 1 PM Summer Refresher Course was a success. An average of 5-6 students showed up every class, and we reviewed the essential material that we had seen in the previous academic year, from Units 1 through 6. Both students advancing to Level 2 and students re-taking Level 1 (since they started late last year) were able to benefit from the material and practice. Students practiced all four skills - Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing. I was impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication that these students had to continue their studies during the summer."

-Shannon McEvoy

To Our Amazing Volunteers

Welcome to the 2026–2027 Academic Year!

We're excited to welcome both our returning and new volunteers to the Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program. Thank you for choosing to be part of our community and for sharing your time and talents with our students.

To returning volunteers, thank you for your continued commitment and support.

To new volunteers, we're so glad you're joining us and can't wait to work with you.

A special thank you to Allies for Immigrants for their ongoing partnership in connecting us with such dedicated volunteers. We look forward to another great year together. Thank you all for helping make a difference in the lives of our adult learners. We're excited to have you with us!

Best,
Mark Henderson
Volunteer Coordinator

Welcome New Teachers and Staff

Sheri Adlin
We are delighted to welcome Sheri back to ALP in an exciting new role! After volunteering with our program last year, Sheri will serve as the Facilitator for our newly created Conversation Lab. Designed to give students more opportunities to practice their English in a relaxed and supportive setting, the Conversation Lab will focus on building confidence, strengthening

communication skills, and encouraging meaningful, real-world conversations. We are thrilled to have Sheri continue as part of the ALP community and look forward to a wonderful year of conversation, connection, and learning!

Kira Class

Kira is an ESOL Teacher for ALP and currently teaches Level 2 AM. Kira is a dedicated teacher with over 5 years of teaching experience. She strives to provide engaging, interactive and enjoyable lessons to students, and to make a difference in their lives. Kira began teaching while doing an AmeriCorps program called New American Integration. Her interest in teaching has only grown from there. Welcome, Kira, we look forward to working with you!

Bosya Komusova

A warm welcome to Bosya, who sees herself as both a teacher and a lifelong language learner. She speaks Russian, English, and Kalmyk, her native language. Having lived and worked in different cultural environments, she understands both the challenges and opportunities that come with learning another language. She believes that learning English can build confidence and independence and open new opportunities in people's lives. She earned her PhD in Education from the Institute for Ethnic Problems in Education in Moscow, Russia. She has taught English in university and language school settings, trained teachers of English and Kalmyk, and developed curricula and instructional materials. She is excited to join the ALP team and help students achieve their personal, educational, and professional goals.

Merlande Thermidor

We are thrilled to welcome back Mirlande Thermidor after her years away from the program. She is an ESOL instructor with a background in community education, cultural studies, and family support. She holds a master's degree in Transnational Cultural and Community Studies from UMass Boston and is passionate about creating welcoming and inclusive learning spaces.

Luis Santos

Luis joins us as a new Student Advisor for the Adult Learning Program's Certified Nursing Assistant training (CNA). He has a background in higher education, academic advising, and college and career support, and enjoys helping students navigate their educational and professional journeys. Luis is a graduate of Clark University and Boston University. Outside of work, he enjoys writing poetry, weightlifting, trying new coffee shops, exploring Boston, traveling, and keeping a good planner!

Glynis Skinner

Glynis Skinner is a Boston-area professional with a Master's degree in Organizational & Industrial Psychology, with a focus in Change Management. She is passionate about adult education, health equity, and empowering individuals to confidently navigate complex systems. Her work is grounded in a trauma-informed, person-centered approach that emphasizes dignity, understanding, and meaningful support.

Beyond her professional work, Glynis is a published children's book author with a love for storytelling and a deep appreciation for the power of words. She believes that thoughtful communication can inspire, promote healing, and create meaningful change in both individuals and communities. Welcome, Glynis, and thank you for choosing to make ALP a part of your community.

Carla Hands

Carla brings 19 years of experience in education to her role as Advisor for the Jamaica Plain Community Centers' Adult Learning Program. She began her career with Boston Public Schools before going on to serve as a school counselor and district administrator, and she holds a Master's degree in School Counseling from Cambridge College. Carla's passion for education extends beyond the classroom and into the community. She is honored to support the Adult Learning Program, where she can continue doing what she loves most: helping others grow, learn, and reach their full potential. In addition to her professional work, Carla enjoys sports, reading, and spending quality time with her family. She values connection and collaboration and will bring that same spirit of community to her work with the Adult Learning Program.

Sandra Alexander

A warm welcome back to Sandra Alexander. Sandra has 23 years of Military experience and has deployed to various countries while serving. Sandra is currently a Retired Army Veteran, who is closely connected to the Veteran community. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services and a Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Sandra enjoys working with diverse populations and is actively engaged in social change throughout her community to help strengthen communal bonds while fostering growth in the city.

Dexroy Plummer

Dexroy was born in Saint Elizabeth, Jamaica, and lived in Mandeville, Manchester, until his family relocated to Boston when he was five years old. Driven by a deep curiosity and a desire to help others, Dexroy has always embraced the world as a place filled with endless opportunities to learn and grow. Today, Dexroy channels that same passion into his role as a Tech Support Specialist at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School. He enjoys working with students in Information Support Services and Networking.

Dexroy began working with ALP over the summer, but please give him a full (if slightly belated) ALP welcome now!

Peter Dudeny

And, finally, ALP welcomes Peter Dudeny. Peter is currently a level 2 ESOL instructor with the Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program and is located at the Rafael Hernandez Dual Language School. Peter formerly taught English as a Second Language at a private company with corporate clients, and at a local community college, for over twenty years. After he retired he began volunteering as an ESOL teacher in Jamaica Plain and Dorchester, sponsoring poetry groups in Roslindale, and discussing democracy with progressive friends.

JPCCALP is Back and Ready for a new Academic Year!!!

The Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program (ALP) is back and ready for an exciting new year! We are looking forward to new opportunities, fresh ideas, and exciting initiatives that will continue to support our students, strengthen our community, and help our learners reach their goals. With renewed energy and enthusiasm, we are excited about what lies ahead and look forward to another year of learning, growth, collaboration, and success!

Warm regards,

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