

# First Literacy receives \$72k in grant funding from Boston's Neighborhood Jobs Trust

By **Chloe Pisani** Globe Correspondent, Updated February 12, 2026, 9:47 p.m.



First Literacy Executive Director Terry Witherell, right, spoke with Lilian Thimotti, a former scholarship winner who spoke at an awards ceremony in 2023 at Faneuil Hall in Boston. PAT GREENHOUSE/GLOBE STAFF

First Literacy has received a \$72,421 grant from the City of Boston to support the nonprofit's adult literacy education programs.

The funding comes from the Neighborhood Jobs Trust, which provides money for job training to low-to-moderate income residents, according to the city's [website](#).

First Literacy, based in Boston, provides \$1,500 scholarships for adult education learners to pursue higher education or vocational training.

“The grant will have a significant impact on the adult learners we serve, ensuring they have the financial support they need to accomplish their goals,” First Literacy Executive Director Terry Witherell, said in a statement.

The Neighborhood Jobs Trust is funded by linkage fees, which developers of large commercial projects pay to offset their impact on public services.

“Given the rapid changes for employers needs, we are fortunate to have First Literacy on the front line to provide student support, academic rigor and competitive workforce skills,” said Trinh Nguyen, the city's Chief of Worker Empowerment, and the Director of the Office of Workforce Development of Boston.

Among other programs, First Literacy provides scholarships to graduates of adult education programs who pursue college degrees or certificates, the statement said.

First Literacy said literacy is the foundation for most workplace skills.

“By improving literacy, we directly strengthen job readiness, employability, and career advancement opportunities for adults across Greater Boston,” Witherall said.

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