

PROJECT READ

ANNUAL REPORT

2026

Changing lives through literacy.

801-448-READ (7323)
projectreadutah.org
info@projectreadutah.org
550 N. University Avenue, Suite 215
Provo, UT 84601

Contents

01 Director's Message

02 Programs

03 Highlights

04 Volunteer Contributions

05 Student Outcomes

06 Financials

07 Authors of Change

Director's Message

This past year, Project Read served 197 adult learners.

Project Read changes lives through literacy and empowers individuals, strengthens families, builds communities, and creates new cycles of intergenerational literacy.



Shauna K. Brown
Executive Director

01

Literacy is about far more than reading a book. Every day, adults use reading, writing, math, and digital skills to navigate work, education, healthcare finances, family responsibilities, and community life. Yet 1 in 7 Utah adults perform at the lowest level of literacy proficiency, making everyday tasks like reading instructions, completing forms, understanding health information, or navigating the workplace more difficult and highlighting the continued need for accessible adult literacy education. Every day, our learners remind us that literacy is not simply a skill—it is a pathway to possibility. The stories and impact highlighted in this report show what happens when adults have the opportunity to learn, grow, and reach their goals.

For the cause,

Shauna K. Brown








02

Programs

At Project Read, we build on the strengths and experiences adults already bring, connecting literacy instruction to real-life goals in work, family, health, and community. Through Teaching Skills That Matter (TSTM), our instructors weave practical skills like communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking into quarterly topics including civics, financial literacy, health literacy, and workforce preparation, while digital literacy is taught year-round. This approach makes learning meaningful, builds confidence, and empowers adults to use what they learn in everyday life.

ASSESSMENT & TRACKING

We use CASAS Goals assessments to measure learners' skills, identify areas for growth, guide instruction, and track progress through ABE levels.

ONE-ON-ONE TUTORING

Personalized instruction with a trained tutor and an individual learning plan tailored to each learner's goals, with a flexible schedule that works for their life.

LITERACY LABS

Small-group instruction and guided practice that build skills through real-life contexts, including reading, writing, digital skills, and conversation.

03

I enjoy attending Project Read because the program feels supportive and welcoming. I like the atmosphere. The ability to learn things is always good and having a place where I feel comfortable and safe helps me get in the headspace where I'm ready to learn stuff.

Danny
Project Read Student

220
immediate family members impacted.

David feels confident enough with Google Suite to apply for jobs.

Kenia voted in an election for the first time.

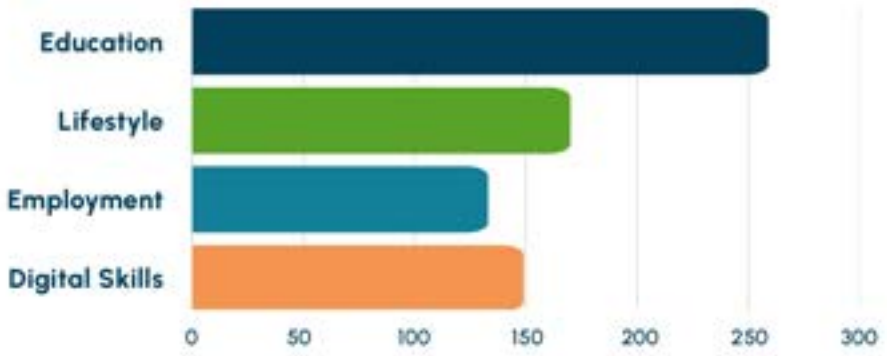
Alan explored healthier food choices based on updated FDA recommendations.

Christy learned to track her household expenses.

Litea was selected to represent her employer at an event.



Student Outcomes



During FY2026, 80 percent of the Project Read students who were retested using the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) increased their skills in either reading or math. In FY2026, 81 percent of Project Read's students and 92 percent of Project Read's basic literacy students achieved at least one literacy-related goal.

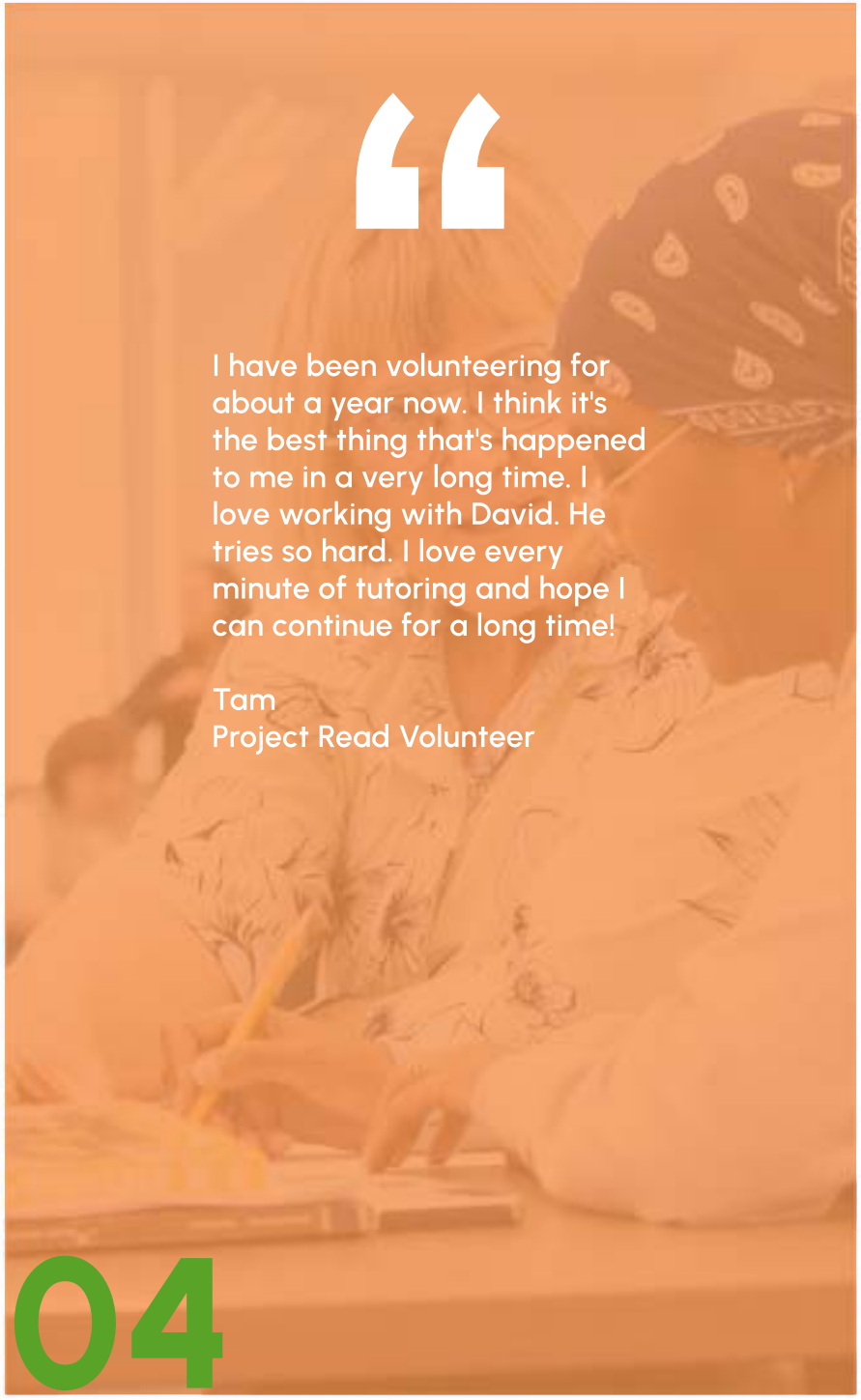
INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS **10,652**

21 Students entered employment.

9 Students placed in post-secondary education..

40 Students achieved level gains.

36 Students increased civic engagement.

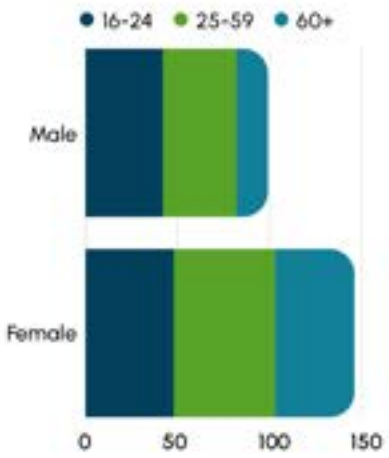


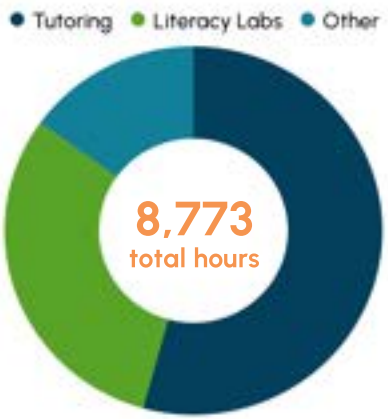
I have been volunteering for about a year now. I think it's the best thing that's happened to me in a very long time. I love working with David. He tries so hard. I love every minute of tutoring and hope I can continue for a long time!

Tam
Project Read Volunteer

Volunteer Contribution

Volunteers are at the heart of Project Read, and their time, talents, and dedication make our mission possible. This year, 255 volunteers donated 8,773 hours and helped Project Read serve 197 students in a wide range of roles. Whether working directly with students or behind the scenes, every volunteer plays an important part in helpiing Project Read strengthen literacy and expand opportunities for adult learners.







Highlights

Growing our impact.

This year, Project Read grew in ways that helped us reach more learners and better support the people who make our work possible. From new learning opportunities to stronger programs, partnerships, and organizational systems, FY2026 helped us build a stronger foundation for what comes next.

VIRTUAL LABS

Flexible online learning removes transportation barriers and gives students another way to participate.

GROWTH MINDSET

A formal Growth Mindset statement now guides staff and volunteer training, supporting learning and growth.

VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

Project Read hosted its first volunteer conference, bringing volunteers together to connect, learn, and strengthen their skills.

Project Read grew in both reach and capacity in FY2026. We strengthened programs and partnerships, and explored opportunities to bring adult literacy services to additional communities. Through the Community Foundation of Utah's Sabbatical and Invest in Success programs, we also strengthened leadership capacity and succession planning, empowering staff to take greater ownership of operations while creating more space for the Executive Director to focus on strategic leadership and long-term priorities.

> "The sabbatical program helped me feel more confident that I have the skills and resources needed to help Project Read continue to grow and succeed in the future.

Ashlen Lemon
Assistant Director





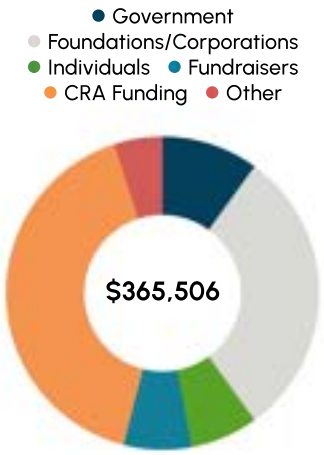




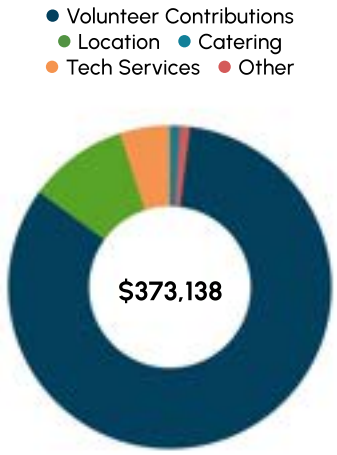
Financials

Project Read received $738,643 in total community support in FY2026 through cash revenue and in-kind contributions. Cash revenue grew 20%, while total support increased 14% compared with the previous fiscal year. With an investment of approximately $1,900 per adult learner, these community contributions help make accessible, personalized literacy education possible and create opportunities for lasting, life-changing impact.

CASH FUNDING SOURCES



IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS



Authors of Change

Project Read is powered by a community that believes every adult deserves the opportunity to read, write, learn, and thrive. While grants and corporate partnerships play an important role, individual donors make a meaningful difference, too. This year, 13% more individuals gave to Project Read, and our Authors of Change monthly giving community provided 20% more support than the previous year. These gifts help keep our services affordable and accessible to every adult who needs them.

Find a list of Project Read donors on our website.



"My parents were both educators, so I grew up seeing the difference that learning and a good teacher can make in someone's life. Supporting Project Read each month feels like a way for me to carry that forward and help make those same opportunities possible for adults who are working hard to change their lives."

Mike Baum
Board Chair, Author of Change