

# WHY ADULT LITERACY MATTERS IN OZAUKEE COUNTY



## ECONOMIC GROWTH

Higher levels of literacy create better employment and education opportunities leading to higher economic productivity and standards of living in Ozaukee County and surrounding communities.



## ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

Low literacy often means living in poverty. 6% of Ozaukee County residents live at or below the poverty level. Increasing levels of literacy can free people from poverty and a need for social services leading to improved employment opportunities and self-sufficiency.



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A shared language promotes more free opportunities for social interactions and cultural exchanges, as well as promotes community engagement and better understanding among community members. Today, 7% of Ozaukee County residents speak a language other than English at home.



## HEALTHY FAMILIES

Family-sustaining employment and the ability to effectively understand and engage with the community are critical foundations for healthy families. Thriving families depend on the adults having the literacy skills to support and safeguard them financially, medically, and educationally.