



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Contact:**

Laura Castelli  
518-689-7223 (work)  
518-225-8993 (cell)  
lcastelli@corningplace.com

## **Local Tutors, Students and Advocates Denounce Adult Literacy Cuts**

Syracuse, N.Y. – Students, volunteer tutors and administrators from Central New York literacy programs will hold a press conference to show their opposition to the 40-percent proposed budget cut to statewide and local adult literacy programs.

*Details of the press conference are as follows:*

**Who:** Literacy New York (LNY)  
Literacy Volunteers of Greater Syracuse  
Literacy Volunteers of Oswego County, Inc.

**Where:** The Galleries of Syracuse  
447 South Salina St.  
Syracuse, NY 13202-2494

**When:** Friday, April 16, 2010  
11:30 am

The current state budget proposals would cut more than \$2 million – or about one-third of all state funding – to literacy assistance programs across New York. This cut is in addition to a \$612,000 cut under the 2009-10 Deficit Reduction Plan (DRP). With last year’s DRP reduction of funding, literacy programs throughout the state are now faced with a nearly 40 percent potential cut from last year’s funding level.

“Twenty-two percent of New Yorkers are below basic literacy level,” said Kevin Smith, executive director of Literacy New York. “This program is a necessity for so many and our one-on-one volunteer program has helped thousands of New Yorkers every year. Not only does it provide the support and educational services our adult students need for today’s workforce, it also provides the knowledge and opportunity so that they can help their children and grandchildren succeed in the future.”

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*Since 1977, Literacy New York (LNY) has been a leading advocate for adult literacy in New York State and nationally. Literacy New York provides technical, program, and training assistance and workshops to a network of 37 local, community-based affiliates who annually provide over 400,000 hours of reading and basic skills instruction to adult learners.*

*Syracuse is the birthplace of Literacy Volunteers. Ruth J. Colvin founded Literacy Volunteers in 1962, when she discovered that 11,000 people in her hometown of Syracuse could not read. Ruth trained volunteers in simple, learner-centered methods to teach reading. Today, this model is used in 1,200 programs throughout the United States, in India, China and Africa. Since its founding, LVGS has stressed learner-centered instruction and the use of real-world materials in promoting literacy. People come to LVGS because its reputation as a leading literacy provider in the Greater Syracuse community and the proven track record of helping individuals reach their life goals.*