Although the English as a second language (ESL) and citizenship program area is, overall, the second-largest in adult education in California, some regions are investing more money toward these efforts due to the high percentages of residents who do not speak English well (up to 32 percent).

Additionally, the number of immigrants varies greatly by region. This means that some regions have a significantly higher need for English language and citizenship programs than others. Regions are responding to the need by expanding ESL and citizenship offerings, such as vocational ESL programs, integrated ESL programs, online citizenship courses and holistic programs aimed at immigrant integration.
The South Bay Adult Education Consortium and the Alliance for Language Learners’ Integration, Education and Success (ALLIES) have partnered to develop holistic programming that assists immigrants. Their framework focuses on linguistics, social and economic integration and is a promising practice to watch as they implement their strategy.