

## **Volunteer English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher's Aide for Distance Learning Classes Spring Semester 2021**

### **Mission & Objective**

Our ESL Program integrates relevant teaching practices in grammar, writing, listening-speaking, and reading in an inclusive environment that develops students' language as well as the cultural awareness they will need to thrive. Through the lens of empowering the whole person, the ESL program complements the wraparound services Canal Alliance provides so that very low-income, adult immigrants can improve their access to education, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities to ultimately get on the pathway out of poverty.

Canal Alliance's ESL Program prepares Latino immigrants to feel empowered, supported and motivated to lift barriers to their success through a communicative language framework alongside strengths-based learning.

### **Program dates and class times**

- Spring 2021 semester dates: February 1 – May 13, 2021
- Class days are Monday through Thursday; aides assist in one 2-hour class session per week
- All classes are held from 8:00 to 10:00 pm Pacific Time **via Zoom**
- There is a mandatory team meeting from 7:45 to 8:00 pm each week on your volunteer day

### **Training dates (all training is via Zoom)**

- Orientation (required only for new volunteers): one 1-hour session; will be offered multiple times in December and January
- Professional Development (required for both new and returning volunteers): one 2.5-hour evening session during the week of January 25 (exact date & time tba)

### **Aide Responsibilities**

- Help the teacher establish the virtual classroom as a safe place and provide a nurturing, supportive, and positive learning environment; build positive, respectful relationships with students
- Help the teacher model instructions, conversations and activities
- Assist the teacher with management of the online class if requested: act as Zoom co-host (mute/unmute students, put students in breakout rooms, relay questions to teacher, etc.)
- In breakout rooms:
  - lead activities in teacher's lesson plan; monitor and assist students (with teacher's direction)

- interact virtually with students in various ways: share your screen, use the chat, send and receive documents via our internal messaging app
- Help to ensure all students are participating and are using English
- Monitor class and advise teacher of students who are struggling, or topics that need clarification
- Take attendance if requested
- Join each class Zoom session 10 to 15 minutes before class starts for team meeting
- Attend required orientation (for new volunteers) and professional development session (1 per semester for all volunteers)
- Respect and follow program policies and teacher's instructions
- Respond promptly to communications from teacher, team, and ESL staff
- Be culturally and linguistically responsive in the classroom
- Follow through with volunteer commitment unless work schedule changes or an unforeseen emergency comes up

### **Skills and Attributes**

- Friendly, outgoing and flexible
- Calm, patient and attentive with students
- Enjoy interacting with people of all ages and ethnicities
- Able to build positive and respectful relationships with students, teachers and ESL staff
- Comfortable working with people of varied cultural and socio-economic backgrounds
- Proactive and able to work with minimal direction
- Personal experience learning another language as an adult is helpful
- Knowledge of Spanish helpful but not required

### **Requirements**

- Commitment to cultural and linguistic responsiveness
- Experience using Zoom, including ability to share screen and use the chat function (some training will be provided; after the training, any further questions about Zoom will need to be researched by the individual aide, because staff resources need to go to student support)
- Alignment with Canal Alliance's mission and ESL program goals
- Commitment to assist in one 2-hour class per week plus attend pre-class team meeting  
Commitment to assist for at least one full semester, with minimal absences, and attempt to find own substitute from within team when necessary
- Attendance at one orientation (for new volunteers) and one professional development session per semester (all will be online via Zoom)
- Reliable internet and access to a device with a camera

*Note: If you are not able to make a weekly commitment, consider volunteering as a substitute aide. The training requirements are the same.*