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“Getting My Education is My Hope:” Adult Literacy Learners in the US in the Time of COVID.

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As the COVID-19 pandemic altered life across the world, many adult literacy learners - members of some of the most socioeconomically disadvantaged and culturally marginalized communities in the US - were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic’s physical, mental, and economic toll (Bailey & Moon, 2020; Literacy Assistance Center, 2020). However, adult education programs were able to innovate in often unexpected ways to educate and support learners with increasingly complex needs (Belzer, Leon & Patterson et al., 2020). This paper reports on a focus group with culturally diverse adult literacy learners in a New York City-based program, highlighting how they built a sense of community, hope, and possibility amid the global turmoil.