

# Adult Education and Family Literacy Act

The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) was reauthorized as Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in July 2014. Previously, it was the Workforce Investment Act, 1998-2014. The federal program provides grants to states to fund local programs of adult basic and secondary education and English language acquisition in many contexts: foundational literacy, high-school equivalency, family literacy, integrated English literacy and civics, workforce preparation, workplace education and integrated education and training. Funding is awarded by the Office of Adult Educational Initiatives to eligible community-based organizations, school districts, BOCES, postsecondary institutions and public libraries.

## Purpose

Adult education and family literacy programs focus on evidence-based practices and continuous improvement in order to:

- Build career pathways that offer opportunities to earn a high school equivalency diploma, transition into postsecondary education or training, and/or gain work-experience and self-sufficiency; and
- Help parents and guardians build sufficient skills to become full partners in the educational development of their children.

## Overview

Adult education and family literacy programs help adults get the basic skills they need to be productive workers, family members and citizens. The adult education program offers academic instruction up to the high school level that increases the ability to read, write and speak in English and perform math and other activities. These supports are aimed at helping adults get the necessary skills in order to earn a secondary school diploma or its equivalent, transition to postsecondary education and training, and obtain employment.

Services include:

- Adult basic education: Instruction in basic skills for adults functioning at the lower literacy levels to just below the high school level
- Adult secondary education: Instruction for adults whose literacy skills are at approximately the high school level and who are seeking to earn a secondary school diploma or its equivalent
- English language acquisition: Instruction for adults who lack proficiency in English and who seek to improve their literacy and competence in English

## Allocations and Program Data

### Federal Allocations:

- **2016-2017**  
\$7,089,369
- **2015-2016**  
\$6,753,970

### Program Data:

- **2015-2016**  
31 grantees  
8,749 learners
- **2014-2015**  
34 grantees  
9,230 learners

### Adult Education Enrollment:

- **2015-2016**  
52% - English language acquisition  
40% - Adult basic education  
8% - Adult secondary education
- **2014-2015**  
56% - English language acquisition  
35% - Adult basic education  
9% - Adult secondary education

### Learner Demographics:

- **2015-2016**  
60.7% - Hispanic or Latino  
19.7% - White  
8.7% - Asian or Pacific Islander  
7.9% - Black or African American  
2.2% - American Indian or Alaskan Native  
<1% - Two or More Races  
<1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- **2014-2015**  
46.2% - Hispanic or Latino  
19.0% - White  
16.8% - Two or More Races  
8.2% - Asian or Pacific Islander  
7.5% - Black or African American  
2.1% - American Indian or Alaskan Native  
<1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander



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## Population Served

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Adults ages 16 and older who are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under Colorado law and who are basic skills deficient, do not have a secondary school diploma or equivalent and have not achieved an equivalent level of education, or are English language learners are served through these programs.

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## Career Pathways

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A career pathway is a series of connected education and training programs, work experiences and student support services that enable individuals to secure a job or advance in an in-demand industry or occupation. Career pathways ensure that curricula and programs are aligned with the needs of businesses in Colorado.

Services provided within this program assist adults in obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and economic self-sufficiency. For effective career pathways, program services are based on the curriculum used, implementation of college and career readiness standards, and partnership with Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and Colorado Community College System programs.

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## Collaboration Across State Agencies

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The Office of Adult Education Initiatives and local adult education and literacy programs collaborate with other state agencies, including:

- Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
- Colorado Department of Human Services
- Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Colorado Community College System

Collaboration includes cross-agency development of a Colorado State Plan for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) focused on strategic goals that are based on feedback from partner focus groups held across the state. Adult Education Initiatives' state staff and local program staff are actively engaged in state workgroups to align services across partner agencies. Further, an adult education and literacy grantee is represented on each Local Workforce Development Board in the 10 federally recognized Local Workforce Development Areas to promote effective and efficient practices for Coloradans.

## Where can I learn more?

- For additional information contact Tricia Johnson, Ed.D. at [aei@cde.state.co.us](mailto:aei@cde.state.co.us) or 303-866-6640
- CDE Adult Education Initiatives webpage: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult>
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs](http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs)