

Adult Education Initiatives

Adult Education and Literacy Act of 2014



INTRODUCTION

Established in 2014, the Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) Grant Program at the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) awards state funds for public and private nonprofit adult education and literacy programs that serve as lead agencies and fiscal agents for Adult Workforce Partnerships as described in the Adult Education and Literacy Act of 2014.

Adult education and literacy programs provide adult basic education, adult secondary education leading to a high school equivalency credential, English language acquisition instruction or integrated basic education and skills training. The AEL grant program requires that the funded Adult Education and Literacy programs serve as lead agencies and fiscal agents for Adult Workforce Partnerships. At a minimum, a workforce development partnership includes a local education provider, at least one postsecondary education or training provider and at least one workforce development provider.

In 2014-2015, \$960,000 was appropriated to the AEL grant program, of which \$875,727 was distributed to grantees. Awards distributed to grantees resulted in the following:

- Nine three-year grantees located in six counties in all five workforce regions.
- Four one-year grantees located in four counties within three workforce regions.

GOALS

Goal 1: Student Services

To enable more low-income, low-literacy adults to ultimately achieve economic self-sufficiency (realistically supporting a family without public or private assistance) through providing services and support throughout the steps of their training and employment preparation.

Goal 2: Collaborative Partnerships

To foster partnerships and leverage resources between state, regional, and local agencies and industry leaders that assists adults in attaining basic literacy and numeracy skills leading to additional skill acquisition, postsecondary credentials and employment.

OUTCOMES

During the January 1, through April 30, 2015 reporting period, Adult Education and Literacy three-year grantees successfully engaged in processes that resulted in the following

Goal 1: Students Served

- 393 adult learners enrolled
 - 69 percent female and 31 percent male

Highlights

Established by state legislature in 2014

2014-15 State Allocation

- \$875,727 appropriated to grantees
- Nine three-year grantees in six counties in five workforce regions
- Four one-year grantees in four counties in three workforce regions

Goals

- Student Services
- Collaborative Partnerships

Outcomes

- 393 adult learners enrolled
- More than 120 collaborative partnerships with state agencies, community organizations and businesses

- 49 percent Asian and 25 percent Caucasian
- 63 percent not employed or in the workforce
- 31 percent less than 12 years of education while 22 percent had no schooling

Goal 2: Collaborative Partnerships

- Engaged in partnerships with more than 120 state agencies, community organizations and businesses that have resulted in eliminating duplication of services and leveraging of state agency and community resources including:
 - Learner recruitment, additional funding sources, transition support services, job entry skills training, employment resources, workplace experiences, job skills identification by industry, and public awareness
- Integration of career pathways using the Seven Components of Adult Career Pathways model.



Source: Hinckley, R., Mills, D., & Cotner, H. (2011). Adult Career Pathways Providing A Second Change in Public Education, CORD Communications

Where can I learn more?

- CDE Adult Education Initiatives webpage: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult>
- [View all CDE fact sheets: www.cde.state.co.us/communications/factsheetsandfaq](http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/factsheetsandfaq)