

State Fiscal Year 2027 and 2028 AEFLA Bidder's Conference

PRESENTERS

Kathy Olesen-Tracey, Senior Director for Adult
Education and Literacy

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FY27 Adult Education & Literacy Competitive Grant Comprehensive Bidder Training

- ▶ Illinois Community College Board (ICCB)
 - ▶ CSFA #684-01-1625 | CFDA #84.002
 - ▶ Grant Period: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028
 - ▶ Estimated Funding: \$55,000,000
 - ▶ Competitive – One Year + One Renewal Option

Purpose of the Grant

- ▶ This Notice of Funding Opportunity is offered to solicit applications for federal and state adult education funds. The purpose of adult education services is to assist:
 - ▶ adults in becoming literate and obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency.
 - ▶ adults who are parents or family members in obtaining education and skills that are necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children, and lead to sustainable improvements in the economic opportunities for their family.
 - ▶ adults in attaining a secondary school diploma and in transitioning to post-secondary education and training, including through career pathways; and
 - ▶ immigrants and other individuals who are English language learners in improving their:
 - ▶ reading, writing, speaking and comprehension skills in English. mathematics skills; and
 - ▶ acquiring an understanding of the American system of Government, individual freedom, and the responsibilities of citizenship.

Through this competitive process, ICCB seeks to strengthen Area Planning Councils through accountability, improve regional coordination, and ensure adult education services are aligned with career pathways, workforce demand, credential attainment, and measurable outcomes.
(Illinois Policy)

Demonstrated Effectiveness

- ▶ To be eligible for funding under this NOFO, the applicant must meet demonstrated effectiveness per 34 CFR §463.24.
- ▶ Applicants must have a minimum three-year rolled-up Measurable Skill Gain rate of 25% that illustrates effectiveness in improving reading, writing, mathematics, and English language acquisition skills.
- ▶ **Applications that fail to meet Demonstrated Effectiveness requirements will not be reviewed or scored.**

Funding

- ▶ **One AEFLA Program with three funding streams**
- ▶ **Two separate awards**
 - ▶ WIOA Title II – AEFLA (Federal Basic + 25% State Basic Funds, Illinois' state match)
 - ▶ Non-Match State-Supported Adult Education Programs (75% of State Basic funds + State Performance Funds)

Funding Continued

- ▶ Title II-funded programs with a minimum of two (2) full years of data in the Illinois State Data System will be funded in accordance with the funding formula outlined in the Illinois Adult Education and Literacy Provider Manual.
 - ▶ Eligible for WIOA Title II Funding, Non-State Match Funding, and Performance Funding.
- ▶ Programs without two full years of historical data in the State Data System are considered new programs and will be funded using a cost-per-student calculation methodology until at least one full year of performance data has been collected and validated in the State Data System.
 - ▶ Eligible for WIOA Title II Funding and Non-State Match Funding
- ▶ Funding determinations remain subject to availability of State and Federal appropriations

Eligible Applicants

WIOA Sec 203(5)

- ▶ Local educational agencies
- ▶ Community-based organizations
- ▶ Volunteer literacy organizations
- ▶ Institutions of Higher Education
- ▶ Public or private nonprofit agencies
- ▶ Public Housing Authorities
- ▶ Nonprofit institutions that are not described above and have the ability to provide adult education and literacy activities
- ▶ Consortia of eligible providers
 - ▶ All consortia members and their roles/responsibilities must be identified.

Consortia and Partnerships

- ▶ Consortia and partnerships with Area Planning Councils are encouraged.
- ▶ Applicants proposing consortia must identify a lead agency responsible for fiscal, programmatic, and data accountability on behalf of all consortium partners.

AEFLA Section 231

- ▶ Funding (WIOA Title II and Non-State Match) will be used to fulfill the requirements under WIOA Section 231 with the exception of those identified as state-only activities.
 - ▶ Provide adult education and literacy instruction (including ABE, ASE, ESL/ELA).
 - ▶ Provide Bridge or Workplace Literacy Programming.
 - ▶ Bridge Programs are an instructional strategy to provide learners with on-ramps to postsecondary education, training, and Integrated Career and Preparation System programming. (Illinois Policy)
 - ▶ Workplace adult education programs are partnerships with Employers.
 - ▶ Provide English Language Acquisition instruction.
 - ▶ Provide Integrated Career and Academic Preparation System, ICAPS, (Federally Referred to as Integrated Education and Training) Programs.

AEFLA Section 225

- ▶ For providers serving Corrections Education, the WIOA Title II and Non-State Match funds shall be used to cover costs of education programs for criminal offenders in correctional institutions and for other institutionalized individuals, including academic programs for
 - ▶ Adult education and literacy activities
 - ▶ Special education, as determined by the eligible agency
 - ▶ Secondary school credit
 - ▶ Integrated education and training
 - ▶ Career pathways
 - ▶ Concurrent enrollment
 - ▶ Peer tutoring; and
 - ▶ Transition to re-entry initiatives and other post release services with the goal of reducing recidivism

Individual Eligibility for Services

- ▶ An eligible individual to receive Adult Education and Literacy services is an individual:
 - ▶ who has attained 16 years of age.
 - ▶ who is not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under state law; and who
 - ▶ is basic skills deficient.
 - ▶ does not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and has not achieved an equivalent level of education; or
 - ▶ is an English language learner.

Required Services

- ▶ Direct instruction leading to increases in education functioning levels to eligible adult learners with paid and qualified instructors.
- ▶ Instructional services must be designed and delivered in coordination with Area Planning Council (APC) priorities to support regional alignment and learner transitions. (Illinois Policy)
 - ▶ **Requests for APC plans for funded providers should be directed to your APC. For programs not currently funded, request your area's APC by contacting Rupa Sameer by April 17th.**
- ▶ Build on the Illinois Adult Education ABE/ASE and ELA/ESL Standards and the Illinois Career Cluster Framework to ensure students are college and workplace ready.
- ▶ Integrate distance learning programming to address barriers to in-class participation and include technology focused instruction to improve learning and the skills necessary for success of students in adult education, and their transition into postsecondary education and employment. (Illinois Policy)
- ▶ Utilize evidence-based and integrated teaching methodologies that may include multi-lingual approaches that are based on research to improve English Language Acquisition and prepare students for college and career readiness.
- ▶ Ensure 100% of adult learners receive the required assessments within the ICCB assessment policy and ensure post-testing rates meet the expected targets outlined below in the Performance Section.
- ▶ Scale effective strategies including the required bridge programs and Integrated Career and Academic Preparation System (I-CAPS) or other approved integrated models that meet the required guidelines for the ICCB.

Required Services - Continued

- ▶ Expand on current ICAPS offering Industry-focused curricula that are aligned with State and regional labor market information and developed in coordination with Area Planning Council (APC) partners to ensure alignment with regional workforce demand and pathway opportunities. (Illinois Policy)
- ▶ Utilize data from the state Management Information System to improve instruction and services to ensure performance accountability.
- ▶ Prioritize transitioning students to postsecondary training and degree attainment, industry recognized credential attainment, and/or employment.
- ▶ Develop a career pathways system with multiple entry points for all adult learners, including One Stop and American Job Center locations.
- ▶ Establish partnerships with core and required partners, including those identified through the Area planning Council (APC), to ensure coordinated student support services that improve retention, persistence and transitions to education, training, and employment.
- ▶ Participate in regular APC data review and planning activities, including shared analysis of enrollment, persistence, and outcome data, to inform regional continuous improvement and coordinated service delivery. (Illinois Policy) Describe how APC partnerships and LWIAS contribute to student retention and programmatic success

Performance Targets (Reference SFY26)

- ▶ Employment 2nd Quarter After Exit: 31.5%
- ▶ Employment 4th Quarter After Exit: 34.5%
- ▶ Median Earnings: \$6,150
- ▶ Credential Attainment: 32%
- ▶ MSG: 41.5%

Budget and Finance

- ▶ Applicants selected for funding will receive awards from both funding sources.
 - ▶ WIOA Title II – Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) This award consists of federal AEFLA funds authorized under Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), together with the required 25% State match in accordance with 34 CFR § 463.60 and 2 CFR § 200.306.
 - ▶ Funds awarded under this opportunity are subject to all applicable federal statutes, regulations, Uniform Administrative Requirements (2 CFR Part 200), and state pass-through entity requirements.
 - ▶ Funds awarded under the WIOA Title II opportunity, including the required non-federal match, must be used for allowable adult education and literacy activities consistent with 34 CFR Part 463 and 2 CFR Part 200.
 - ▶ Non-Match State-Supported Adult Education Programs. This award consists of State of Illinois appropriations for adult education and literacy activities that are not utilized toward the 25% match and State Performance Funds.
 - ▶ State funds are governed by applicable Illinois statutes, administrative rules, grant agreement terms, and ICCB policy. These funds are to be used in coordination with WIOA Grant Deliverables. (Illinois Policy)
 - ▶ For the purpose of this submission, applicants are only submitting their non-match State Basic budget. Upon release of State Performance Funding, applicants will amend their budget to include Performance funding when applicable.

Student Support – Grant Exclusive Tab

- ▶ Must be categorized, with appropriate narratives, in Grant Exclusive
 - ▶ Includes stipends, childcare, transportation, tuition
 - ▶ Not included in indirect base
 - ▶ Institution-owned items remain in original budget tab

Application Deadline

Application Deadline: Friday, May 1st, 2026, at 5:00 PM CST.

- ▶ **Applications received after the deadline or not received via Euna/Amplifund will not be considered.**
- ▶ All materials needed for the application are on the State of Illinois' grants application site at:
 - ▶ WIOA Title II AEFLA: <https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/202ce732-0caf-4e63-b7d8-0eb989a31de4>
 - ▶ Adult Education and Literacy Basic Grants- State: <https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/74c189f5-7dca-41be-b16b-852098233c9d>

Please go to <https://www.iccb.org/grant-opportunities/> to access resources that will guide you through the Amplifund process.

Amplifund Support: Email: contact@amplifund.com Phone (216) 377-5500

SUBMIT BOTH OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ YOU MUST SUBMIT BOTH OPPORTUNITIES.
- ▶ YOU WILL ONLY RECEIVE FUNDING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY YOU SUBMIT
- ▶ IF YOU MISS ONE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES, WE ARE ONLY ABLE TO FUND ONE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES

GATA & Risk Requirements

- ▶ Applicants must complete GATA Pre-Qualification
 - ▶ Submit FY26 ICQ (Internal Control Questionnaire)
 - ▶ Submit Programmatic Risk Assessment
 - ▶ Meet all deadlines & eligibility criteria

Required Application Components

- ▶ Demonstrated Effectiveness –Submit the same document in both opportunities
- ▶ Uniform Grant Application (A Form in Euna/Amplifund – Submit for both opportunities)
- ▶ Submit the appropriate Uniform Budgets (with the signed CEO Certificate) with the appropriate grant opportunity.
- ▶ Grant Narrative (Upload same document to both opportunities)
- ▶ Scope of Work (Upload same document to both opportunities)
- ▶ Programmatic Risk Assessment
- ▶ FFATA (WIOA Title II opportunity only)

SUBMIT BOTH OPPORTUNITIES Continued

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Grant Narrative Sections

- ▶ APC Alignment & Regional Coordination
- ▶ Consortium Coordination (if applicable)
- ▶ Performance Strategy
- ▶ Retention & Persistence
- ▶ Career Pathways (Bridge & ICAPS)
- ▶ Data Management & Continuous Improvement

Merit-Based Review – 100 Points

- ▶ APC Alignment – 20
- ▶ Performance Strategy – 15
- ▶ Retention – 10
- ▶ Career Pathways – 15
- ▶ Data & Continuous Improvement – 10
- ▶ Instructional Services – 5
- ▶ Scope of Work – 25
- ▶ Budgets will be reviewed for appropriateness but not scored.

MERIT BASED REVIEW AND APPEAL PROCESS

- ▶ Appeals limited to evaluation process only
 - ▶ Must be submitted within 14 days
 - ▶ Must include name, grant ID, reason for appeal

FAQ

- ▶ The Bidder's Conference Recording will be posted
- ▶ The FAQ will be updated weekly and be posted
- ▶ The last day to submit questions for the FAQ is Friday, April 17th.
 - ▶ All information will be posted here:
<https://www.iccb.org/grant-opportunities/>

Contact Information

- ▶ Rupa Sameer
 - ▶ Director for Adult Education & Literacy
 - ▶ Illinois Community College Board
 - ▶ rupa.sameer@illinois.gov
 - ▶ 217-785-0213