FY27 Expansion of ESL Services for Adult Education Providers Working with Asylees, Refugees, and Migrants

Application Due Date/Time: November 13, 2026, 5:00 pm (CST)
Submit Application via EUNA

UNIFORM NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO) SUMMARY INFORMATION

1.	Awarding Agency Name:	Illinois Community College Board (ICCB)
2.	Agency Contact:	Nyssa Westermeyer nyssa.westermeyer@illinois.gov Associate Director for Adult Education and Literacy
3.	Announcement Type:	Initial Announcement
4.	Type of Assistance Instrument:	Grant
5.	Funding Opportunity Number:	
6.	Funding Opportunity Title:	FY2027 Expansion of English Language Services for Adult Education Providers Working with Asylees, Refugees, and Migrants.
7.	CSFA Number:	684-00-3320
8.	CSFA Popular Name:	English Language Services for Adult Education Providers
9.	CFDA Number(s):	
10.	Grant Period	January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027
11.	Anticipated Number of Awards:	10-30
12.	Estimated Total Program Funding:	$750,000
13.	Award Range:	$50,000
14.	Source of Funding:	State
15.	Cost Sharing/Matching Requirement:	No
16.	Indirect Costs Allowed Restrictions on Indirect Costs	Yes No
17.	Posted Date:	September 28, 2026
18.	Closing Date for Applications:	November 13, 2026
19.	Technical Assistance:	Bidder's conference and the FAQ

A. Background and Purpose

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) is inviting currently funded Title II Adult Education programs to apply for the Expansion of English Language Services for Adult Education Providers grant. This grant will support the increasing numbers of asylees, refugees, and migrants by helping them gain skills in English Language Acquisition. The grant will also provide a system of support for the work providers are doing in partnership with emergency shelters and respite centers. The purpose of this grant is to prepare adults who are English Language Learners through ELL classes and activities that lead to self- sufficiency and create a critical conduit for integrating into society as parents, workers, and citizens.

B. Eligible Applicants

Current ICCB-funded Title II Adult Education and Literacy programs are invited to submit proposals under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

C. Target Population

The ICCB is committed to serving the populations that are most in need of the services as identified under the Illinois Unified Plan
https://www.illinoisworknet.com/WIOA/Resources/pages/stateunifiedplan.aspx

An eligible individual to receive Adult Education and Literacy services is an individual:

- Who has attained 17 years of age or are 16 and in an approved High School Credit Recovery Program.
- Who is not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under state law.
- Who are basic skills deficient.
- Who 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.

D. Grant Objectives

The intent of the grant is to expand capacity for English language services for providers working with asylees, refugees, and migrants. With this funding, adult education providers can better assist new arrivals with their transition to living in the United States. This grant aims to support all demographics with a primary focus on immigrants, asylees, and refugees. These funds will help programs to equip them with the necessary skills and resources to integrate successfully into their new communities. This funding enhances opportunities for English language learners to increase their basic skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This funding is intended to expand existing offerings and serve additional learners. It is not intended to supplant existing English Language Services.

By hiring qualified ESL instructors with a background in working with asylees, refugees, and

migrants, the New Arrivals population will be better served and have access to curriculum that address their skill set. Programs will offer technology for students to access remote learning, as well as training for students to access this technology. Providers will recruit students while offering wrap-around services to support and retain new learners.

Assessment of the students and program will occur throughout the grant cycle.

E. Allowable Expenditures

Funds may be used to serve eligible participants in the target population for the FY27 Expansion of English Language Services award. This includes funding used to work with and support Adult Education students who are: asylees, refugees, migrants, immigrants, and English Language Learners

English Language Learner curriculum can be purchased to support learner success with increased measurable skill gains and transitions to either workplace or postsecondary education.

It is expected that providers will use a variety of resources to provide wrap-around support services to serve this population.

F. Grant Deliverables

Carry out deliverables of the proposed scope of work.

Submit required programmatic and fiscal reports on a quarterly basis. Details and dates will be provided in the Grant Agreement.

Reporting templates and other instructions will be made available to grant recipients later.

G. Application Package

Applications submitted under this grant program will undergo a merit-based review process. All three parts of the application package must be completed by the deadline to be considered. Applicants should ensure that all elements are clearly addressed and are strongly encouraged to use headers to address all elements or some consistent form of response delineation. Applicants will receive a receipt of application. However, applicants will not be notified if there are items that are missing from their application. Applicants must use the templates provided on the ICCB website: https://www.iccb.org/grant-opportunities/.

The application must be organized as listed below.

Uniform Grant Application
This is a form in Euna.

Application Narrative
The eligible applicant must submit a narrative that must include the following information in the order listed below and utilizing a header for each Numbered Section.

I. Statement of Need (20 points)
Population to be Served: Provide a description of the target population of students to be served (Use DAISI data – NRS Core Performance Report, Table 1 and the SIUE Index of Need). Applicants should identify key challenges and barriers learners face, including language barriers, education barriers, legal issues, employment, housing, and social integration.

Applicants should use data as evidence for their selection. This data can be found in many sources such as the Index of Need (https://www2.iccb.org/data/research-tools/district-census-data/), the DAISI NRS Core Performance Report, Table 1, or local, more recent data available on the influx of migrants and their educational needs.

1. Services to Be Provided (40 points)
Project Work Plan: Clearly describe the project activities and associated timeline for each activity to be carried out during the grant period. The activities should clearly relate to the goals of the grant. A chart or table is encouraged.

Description of the curriculum or support resources to be provided: Include explanations of how the curriculum will lead to improved learner outcomes and how the determination of purchases is made.

Location of Services: Identify where services and instruction will be offered. How will individuals be recruited or informed about available services?

Partners: What internal and external partners will participate in this project? How will you connect with new students and with agencies supporting newly arrived immigrants. Discuss if these relationships are newly formed to address the needs of the expanding immigrant population. Applicants should clearly define the role of all partnering agencies.

2. Overall Project Goals/ Indicators of Performance (40 points)
Identify how the project goals identified in your proposal are aligned with your Area Plan.

Identify the Number of additional English Language Learners that will be served (from current baseline of services) and the wrap around support services provided. Discuss how these wrap-around supports will lead to increased student persistence.

Discuss how this funding will be used to increase adult learner outcomes such as increased Education Functioning Levels, completion of Bridge programming, completion of Integrated Career and Academic Programs, or participation in a workplace literacy program.

Uniform Budget
All applicants must submit a proposed budget on the State of Illinois Uniform Grant Budget Template (template provided). Applicants should submit budgets based upon the total estimated

costs for the project. Costs should be in line with allowable costs under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act. Grantees should ensure that they have the institutional capacity to fully execute this grant and all funding is provided with it. Grant funds must be expended within the allowable timeframes of the grant period.

For information on allowable uses of funds and other administrative requirements: https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Pages/ResourceLibrary.aspx.

Programmatic Risk Assessment
All applicants must submit the Programmatic Risk Assessment form as part of their Application Package. Download the Programmatic Risk Assessment from the application forms found on the opportunity in EUNA, complete it, and upload the completed form. The form must remain in an excel file

Training and resources regarding the Programmatic Risk Assessment can be found at https://www.iccb.org/grant-opportunities/.

The grantee will submit quarterly reports, which include programmatic, performance and expenditure data, 30 days after the calendar quarter ends detailing progress on funded activities.

(Reporting templates and other instructions will be made available to grant recipients later. Close out reports will be due by March 1st, 2028.)

H. Application/Submission Information

Application Deadline: Friday, November 13, 2026, by 5:00 PM CST. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

All materials needed for the application are on the State of Illinois' grants application site https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/8aca695a-401d-4046-866f-5776c65b34b4

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

Applications not received via Euna will not be considered.

Euna Support:

- Euna Support Site: https://il-amplifund.zendesk.com
- Euna Support Email: support@il-amplifund.zendesk.com
- Euna Support Phone: (844) 407-3573

A Bidders webinar will be held on October 8th, 2026, at 10:00 am. The link will be posted on the ICCB's grant Opportunities webpage, and a recording with the FAQ will be added to the website for the

public. You will also be getting the webinar link via the Adult Ed Listserv.
Bidder's Conference Webex Link:
https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m8a4510fde93d1703955586568c7f3207

I. GRANT PRE-QUALIFICATION

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal or State awarding agency that is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal or State awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110 (d)) is required to:

a. Be registered in SAM before submitting its application. If you are not registered in SAM, this link provides a connection for SAM registration: https://governmentcontractregistration.com/sam-registration.asp.
b. Provide a valid UEI number in its application.
c. Continue to always maintain an active SAM registration with current information during which it has an active award.
d. ICCB will not make an award to an applicant until the applicant has fully complied with all applicable GATA, UEI and SAM requirements.
e. Grant recipients must comply with all applicable provisions of state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to nondiscrimination, sexual harassment, and equal employment.

J. FUNDING INFORMATION

Grant Period:
The grant period is January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027.

Funding Availability:
A total of $750,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the ICCB for grants to eligible entities for educational purposes as outlined under this NOFO. Only one grant application per adult education provider will be considered.

Cost Sharing or Matching:
No cost sharing or matching is required.

Indirect Cost Rate
To charge indirect costs to a grant, the applicant organization must either 1.) have an annually negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA), or 2.) elected a De Minimis rate in the GATA system. This election must be made on the GATA grantee portal.

- **Federally Negotiated Rate**: Organizations that receive direct federal funding may have an indirect cost rate that was negotiated with the Federal Cognizant Agency. ICCB will accept the federally negotiated rate.

- **State Negotiated Rate:** Organizations may negotiate an indirect cost rate with the State of Illinois if they do not have a Federally Negotiated Rate. The indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted to the State of Illinois within 90 days of the notice of award.
- **De Minimis Rate:** An organization that has never received a Federal or State Negotiated Rate may elect a De Minimis rate of 15% of modified total direct cost (MTDC). Once established, the De Minimis rate may be used indefinitely.

Direct Student Support: Classification in Grant Exclusive Line Item
Beginning in FY2027, for ICCB grants that permit student support as an allowable expenditure, direct student support should be categorized in the Grant Exclusive tab of the Uniform Budget. Direct student support is when a student directly (ex. tuition assistance, stipends) or indirectly (ex. childcare, transportation, examination fee assistance) receives grant funds. Restrictions on direct student support set by federal, state, or grant specific rules or statutes supersede this guidance. Exclusive Line Items are not included in the indirect base.
Note that tangible items that the institution maintains control or ownership of (lending libraries, loaner laptops, etc.) should remain in the applicable tab, and not in the Grant Exclusive tab.
Student Support Subsidies, paid directly to or on behalf of participants, include but are not limited to the following:

- Income replacement
- Transportation subsidies (gas cards, public transit passes, etc.)
- Childcare subsidies
- Housing costs
- Food benefits (vouchers, gift cards, institutional food bank, etc.)
- Tuition assistance and fees
- Books
- Student supplies (field specific supplies/uniforms, laptops, tablets, etc.)
- End-of-program employment assistance
- Legal barrier assistance (criminal record sealing, expungement fees, etc.)
- Driver's license reinstatement fees
- Liability insurance fees

If you have any questions regarding Student Support Subsidies, please refer to ICCB's Guidance for Student Support Subsidies or submit a question through the general application question process and the answer will be posted in the FAQ.

K. Review Criteria and Selection Process

The ICCB staff will use the criteria listed in this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to review the applications and will award points accordingly. Decisions to award grants and the funding levels will be determined per application based upon compliance with the requirements of this NOFO and the grant proposal:

a. Applicants must provide a detailed description of the target population, identifying key challenges and barriers, including language, education, legal issues,

employment, housing, and social integration. Data should be used to substantiate the selection of the target population. ***(Weight: 20%)***

b. Applicants must clearly describe the project activities and timeline, curriculum or support resources, location of services, and methods of recruitment. This section should also outline partnerships with internal and external agencies and define the roles of these partners. ***(Weight: 40%)***

c. Applicants must align project goals with their area plan, identify the number of additional learners to be served, and discuss wrap-around support services. The section should also outline how these supports will enhance learner persistence and outcomes such as educational functioning levels, completion of bridge programming, or participation in workplace literacy programs. ***(Weight: 35%)***

d. Applicants must submit a budget using the State of IL Uniform Grant budget Template. The budget should reflect allowable costs and demonstrate the institution's capacity to manage the grant funds effectively. ***(Weight: 5%)***

Applicants must demonstrate that they meet all requirements under this NOFO as described throughout.

L. STATE AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT

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