

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY LANSING

JEFF DONOFRIO DIRECTOR

Request for Applications Announcement

Organizations that offer adult education and literacy programs in Michigan can apply now for funding for a four-year grant cycle. The *Adult Education Eligible Provider Application* is posted on the <u>Adult Education website</u> (Michigan.gov/Workforce, search for "Adult Education for Providers of Programs"). The completed application must be submitted via email to <u>adulted@michigan.gov</u> by **5:00 p.m. on February 11, 2020**.

Administered by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity–Workforce Development (LEO-WD), the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Title II, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) funds must be used to support adult education and literacy programs.

Adult education provides many important benefits to support adult learners in Michigan, including:

- ✓ Assisting adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills for employment and economic self-sufficiency;
- ✓ Supporting the educational and skill achievement of parents and family members to participate in the educational development of their children and improve economic opportunities for families;
- ✓ Helping immigrants and English learners in improving their English and math proficiency and understanding the rights and responsibilities of citizenship;
- ✓ Assisting incarcerated individuals in strengthening their knowledge and skills to promote successful reentry into society; and
- ✓ Support employers by providing workplace literacy and remediation services on-site to upskill current workers.

These adult education and literacy activities are funded through three separate grants -

- General Instruction funding to provide adult education and literacy activities (Section 231 of the WIOA);
- Institutional funding to provide corrections education and education for other institutionalized individuals (Section 225 of WIOA); and
- 3. **Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education** (IELCE) to provide IELCE in combination with integrated education and training activities (Section 243 of WIOA).

The AEFLA funds are awarded annually to state agencies by the U.S. Department of Education. The fiscal year 2019 award to WD totaled \$9,712,805 for General Instruction; \$1,079,201 for Institutional Programs; and \$1,145,136 for IELCE programs.

WD is competitively bidding the AEFLA funds through a two-phased application process. Phase I, the completion of the *Adult Education Eligible Provider Application*, ensures interested applicants meet the eligibility requirements under the law. According to Federal regulations, 34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 463, only organizations that have demonstrated effectiveness in providing adult education and literacy services are eligible to apply.

Questions regarding the *Adult Education Eligible Provider Application* should be sent to adulted@michigan.gov. Responses will be posted on the Adult Education website at the end of each business day.

Applicants will be notified if they have met the eligible provider criteria by February 19, 2020. Entities that meet the eligibility criteria will continue to Phase II of the application process where they will complete the full application in the Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS+). Eligible providers that are new to MEGS+ will receive instructions and technical assistance related to MEGS+.

There will be a Bidders' Workshop for all applicants to receive detailed instructions and address application-related questions. The workshop will be held:

Date: March 4, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Michigan Library and Historical Center

702 W. Kalamazoo Street Lansing, Michigan 48915

The number of grants awarded by WD will be dependent on the number of applications approved and the amount of funds available. Awards are based on many factors, including the number of adult learners estimated to be served and the programs to be offered.

Please forward this announcement to other stakeholders, agencies, groups, and associations that may be interested in this funding opportunity.