Adult Education Initiatives

2017-18 Program Year

COLORADO
Department of Education

Need for Adult Education in Colorado

In Colorado, over 300,000 adults do not have a high school credential, with 41 percent of those individuals having less than a 9th grade level of education. Of these individuals, 24 percent of them live below the poverty line.[1] The 2014-15 Colorado Skills for Jobs Report notes that by the year 2020, it is estimated that 64 percent of all jobs, nationally, will require post-secondary education. In Colorado, however, 74 percent of all jobs statewide will require some level of post-secondary education or training by the year 2020, well exceeding the national average.[2] As a critical partner in Colorado's workforce system, adult education grantees are committed to providing services that will increase access to meaningful employment, helping to break cycles of poverty and building stronger communities within Colorado.

AEI awarded the following grant distributions during the 2018-19 program year:

- 23 AEFLA grants, total of $5,404,351 distributed
- 8 IELCE grants, total of $850,000 distributed
- 9 AELA grants, total of $790,412 distributed

Adult Education Grants Overview

The Office of Adult Education Initiatives (AEI) manages two competitive grant programs focused on increasing educational and career outcomes for adults in Colorado. The funding for the federal grant is authorized by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) under WIOA Title II, and includes special funding for Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE). The funding for the state grant is authorized under the 2014 state Adult Education and Literacy Act (AELA) grant.

Adult education programs offer academic instruction and educational support, 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. All grantees offer the following services:
- Adult basic education (lower than ninth grade)
- Adult secondary education (high school level, seeking secondary credential or equivalency)
- English language acquisition

Grantees may also offer family literacy, workplace adult education and literacy, integrated education and training, workforce training, corrections education, and/or civics.

AEFLA Learner Demographics
- 59.9% - Hispanic or Latino
- 17.6% - White
- 12.2% - Asian or Pacific Islander
- 8.5% - Black or African American
- <1% - American Indian or Alaskan Native
- <1% - Two or More Races
- <1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

Adults (ages 17 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. In the 2017-18 grant year, AEI-funded adult education grantees collectively served over 9,000 Adults.

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[1] Colorado Information Marketplace. 2018. Census Dataset. https://data.colorado.gov/dataset/census_state/grnx-2zwm
[2] Colorado Department of Higher Education. 2014. 2014 Legislative Report on the Skills for Jobs Act. https://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Reports/Legislative/Workforce/2014_SkillsforJob.pdf

2017-18 Outcomes

In the 2017-18 program year, 955 total learners were served by AELA grantees. Outcome data for AELA grantees will be available at a later time. In the 2017-18 program year, 8,460 learners were served by AEFLA grantees. Of the adult learners attending AEFLA programs, over 525 learners utilized other WIOA and/or Department of Vocational Rehabilitation services as well. In addition to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, AEI and adult education grantees collaborate with the Colorado Community College System, Colorado Department of Higher Education, and the Colorado Department of Human Services. Further, there is an adult education representative on each Local Workforce Development Board.

Grantee Demographics

- 41% Non-profits
- 22% Community Colleges
- 19% School Districts
- 7% Colleges
- 4% Technical Colleges
- 4% Libraries
- 4% Consortia

Colorado's statewide measurable skill gain (MSG) target for 2017-18 was set in collaboration with the Office of Career and Technical Education at the United States Department of Education at 35 percent of all participants in AEFLA programs. Colorado's actual measurable skill gain rate achieved for 2017-18 was 30 percent of all AEFLA participants. For context, the nationwide measurable skill gain median in the 2016-17 program year (the latest year nationwide data are available) was 44 percent of all participants.

The 2017-18 MSG outcomes listed below by AEFLA grantee include high school equivalency diploma attainment, post-secondary entrance and educational functioning level gain. AEI is excited to work with grantees to continue to improve outcomes.

AEFLA/ILECE Grantee	MSG	Number Served
Asian Pacific Development Center	34%	482
Adams County School District 14	23%	512
Boulder Valley Family Literacy Program	23%	139
Colorado Mountain College	20%	882
Colorado Northwestern Community College	39%	28
Community College of Aurora	34%	364
Community College of Denver	30%	351
Community Educational Outreach	45%	632
Durango Adult Education Center	29%	196
Emily Griffith Technical College	31%	348
Focus Points Family Resource Center	26%	276
Front Range Community College	23%	596
Hilltop Community Resources	28%	58

AEFLA/ILECE Grantee	MSG	Number Served
Immigrant Resource Center of Northern Colorado	13%	452
Jefferson County Public Schools	26%	326
Montrose Adult Education Center	27%	128
Northeastern Junior College	46%	91
Pikes Peak Library District Adult Education	33%	447
Pikes Peak Region AEFL Consortium	44%	975
SEL Tutoring	49%	140
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning	26%	138
The Learning Source	33%	791
Trinidad State Junior College Adult Education Services	38%	108

Where can I learn more?
- Office of Adult Education Initiatives Website
- Grantee Map
- View all CDE fact sheets