

# Adult Education and Literacy Act of 2014

## Adult Education and Literacy State Grant Program

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. These programs 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. 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 2015-2016, \$960,000 was appropriated to the AEL grant program, of which \$830,054 was distributed to grantees. An additional funding opportunity in 2014-15 resulted in \$298,876 also being distributed in 2015-16. 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.

## Awardees

Adult Education and Literacy Three-Year Grant	Adult Workforce Partnerships One-Year Grant
Aims Community College	Colorado Mountain College
Asian Pacific Development Center	Durango Adult Education Center
Community College of Denver	Colorado Springs District 11
Colorado Northwestern Community College	Pueblo Community College
Community College of Aurora	
Emily Griffith Technical College	
Mile High Youth Corps and RiseUP Community School	
Northeastern Junior College	
Unlimited Learning Center	

## Highlights

- Established by state legislature in 2014
- 2015-16 State Allocation:  
\$830,054 appropriated to grantees  
Nine three-year grantees in six counties in five workforce regions
- Additional 2014-15 Allocation:  
\$298,876 continued to 2015-16  
Four one-year grantees in four counties in three workforce regions
- Primary Goals
  1. Student Services
  2. Employment/Education Gains
  3. Collaborative Partnerships
- Outcomes
  1. 1,351 adult learners enrolled
  2. 45% demonstrated educational gains
  3. 29% entered or advanced employment
  4. More than 125 collaborative partnerships with state agencies, community organizations, and businesses



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## Primary Goals

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### Goal 1: Student Services

To support more low-income, low-literacy adults in attaining basic literacy and number skills through providing services and support throughout the steps of their training and employment preparation.

### Goal 2: Education / Employment Gains

To enable adults to achieve additional skills attainment, post-secondary credential attainment, and employment that ultimately leads to economic self-sufficiency (realistically supporting a family without public or private assistance).

### Goal 3: 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.

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## Outcomes

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During the July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, reporting period, Adult Education and Literacy grantees successfully engaged in processes that resulted in the following:

### Goal 1: Students Served

- 1,351 adult learners enrolled
  - 65 percent female and 35 percent male
  - 30 percent Caucasian and 29 percent Hispanic
  - 45 percent not employed or in the workforce
  - 40 percent less than 12 years of education

### Goal 2: Education / Employment Outcomes

- 45 percent demonstrated gains by standardized test or completed High School Equivalency
- 16 percent completed specialized training
- 14 percent transitioned to post-secondary or skills training
- 29 percent entered or advanced in employment
- 100 percent employed in 2014-15 retained employment in 2015-16

### Goal 3: Collaborative Partnerships

- Engaged in partnerships with more than 125 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

## Where can I learn more?

- For more information visit the Adult Education Initiatives webpage: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult/aelgp-rfa-fy15-0> or
- Contact Jennifer Jirous-Rapp, Ph.D., State Programs and Pathways Manager, [Jirous\\_j@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Jirous_j@cde.state.co.us)
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs](http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs)