

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation of Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) Funds Digital Literacy
Training Pilot, Phase 3
FY 2021-22

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve an allocation of \$1,075,000 Title II, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) funds (50% from State Leadership and 50% from Section 243, Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education) to support Phase III of the Digital Literacy Project to 43 Title II providers. The purpose of Phase III-Digital Navigator Network is to scale up the Digital Literacy Project by supplementing funds for staff resources and materials to build capacity to offer digital literacy skills training and support services. All Title II providers were invited to apply to participate in the Digital Navigator Network project. The providers listed in the table below submitted applications.

Strategic Plan Reference(s):

Theme: Student Interest and Access

GOAL: Increase the percentage of North Carolinians, particularly within underserved populations, pursuing and easily accessing education or training through North Carolina community colleges.

1. Objective 1.3: Identify and reduce access barriers for all prospective students, particularly among underserved populations.

Theme: Economic and Workforce Impact

GOAL: Increase the percentage of North Carolinians, particularly within underserved populations, pursuing and easily accessing education or training through North Carolina community colleges.

2. Objective 1.3: Identify and reduce access barriers for all prospective students, particularly among underserved populations.

Background:

College and Career Readiness Title II State Leadership Activities Strategic Focus:

To maximize Title II initiatives and funding during the 2021-22 program year, three focus areas have been identified to inform and guide Title II State Leadership Activities. These focus areas are: Build Economic Equity, Identify Opportunity, and Create Digital Transformation. The Digital Navigator Network is aligned to digital transformation and building economic equity. Research indicates that the rapid switch to digital environments for work, health, and education and other life necessities, exacerbated the historical digital skills gap problem among communities of color. Access to reliable internet connection, devices, and having the skills to navigate online

platforms are essential for participation in all areas of modern life, and these skills are essential in the COVID-19 recovery.

As we rebuild our economy, the Digital Literacy Project is a framework to ensure an equitable recovery for the adults served in our programs. In 2019-20, Title II adult education programs served over 54,000 students with over 60% from African American and Latino communities. The goal of Title II, College and Career Readiness (CCR) is to provide instruction and services to adults that lead to or facilitate transition to job training or family sustaining wage credentials. These job seekers, parents and workers need digital skills training, and support to navigate the different educational and workplace platforms to participate in regional economic recovery plans.

Rationale:

The Digital Literacy Project builds programs' capacity to improve digital inclusion in NC. This request allows the Digital Literacy Project Phase III to scale up so all programs can implement instruction and support student services with a Digital Navigator. In fall 2020-spring 2021, the NCCCS supported the Digital Literacy project with NC 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act and Title II funds. Six adult education providers (5 colleges and 1 community-based organization) representing varying NC regions, program size and expertise in providing digital literacy instruction and distance learning options, were selected to lead this work. This work resulted in curriculum, courses and student services support needed to improve students' capacities to navigate workforce development sites and services platforms and to be prepared to navigate academic learning platforms. In Phase II, Title II funds were allocated to a cohort of 5 adult education providers to support course instruction, digital literacy project development, and digital navigator professional development and training for statewide dissemination.

The focus on Phase III - Digital Navigator Network is to create a network of trained student support staff to provide support to programs to implement the courses Transition Digital Skills (BSP 4010) and Transition Digital Skills Application (BSP 4011), and to assist students to navigate resources to transition to post-secondary programs of study or credentialed training. The lead advisor, Coastal Carolina Community College, will manage the Digital Navigator Network with training and technical assistance. Title II will provide training on the use of online curriculum.

The providers that submitted a Digital Navigator Network Application have agreed to the following requirements for participation.

Deliverables:

Digital Navigator Network Participants

1. Identify a one or more Digital Navigator.
2. Attend the Digital Navigator Training.
3. Participate in Digital Navigator Network, to include monthly meetings and reporting.

4. Develop a plan to sustain digital inclusion for students.
5. Offer a minimum of one BSP 4010 Transition Digital Skills and/or BSP 4011 Transition Digital Skills Applications courses at their campuses, community-based organizations and/or employers as a membership section.
6. Promote digital skills training as necessary for transition to post-secondary programs of study or credential attainment.
7. Manage the application of the state NorthStar license (digital literacy software used in these courses.)
8. Complete and submit to the state office via the lead consultant one quarterly and an end-of-year report reflecting the status of the Digital Navigator duties.

Funds can be used for: Salaries, both instructional and non-instructional, staff travel, educational supplies, and materials.

Funding Amount and Time Period: The \$1,075,000 request is for the period of December 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is available from the Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Act funds (50% from State Leadership and 50% from Section 243, Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education).

Title II Providers	Allocation
Alamance CC	\$25,000
Beaufort County CC	\$25,000
Brunswick CC	\$25,000
Caldwell CC/TI	\$25,000
Cape Fear CC	\$25,000
Carteret CC	\$25,000
Catawba Valley CC	\$25,000
Central Carolina CC	\$25,000
Cleveland CC	\$25,000
Coastal Carolina CC	\$25,000
College of The Albemarle	\$25,000
Craven CC	\$25,000
Davidson-Davie CC	\$25,000
Edgecombe CC	\$25,000
Fayetteville Urban Ministry	\$25,000
Forsyth Technical CC	\$25,000
Gaston College	\$25,000
Guilford Technical CC	\$25,000
Halifax CC	\$25,000
Isothermal CC	\$25,000
Lenoir CC	\$25,000

Martin CC	\$25,000
Mayland CC	\$25,000
McDowell Technical CC	\$25,000
Moore County Literacy Council	\$25,000
Nash CC	\$25,000
Orange Literacy	\$25,000
Pamlico CC	\$25,000
Piedmont CC	\$25,000
Pitt CC	\$25,000
Randolph CC	\$25,000
Rockingham CC	\$25,000
Sandhills CC	\$25,000
South Piedmont CC	\$25,000
Southwestern CC	\$25,000
Surry CC	\$25,000
Tri-County CC	\$25,000
Vance-Granville CC	\$25,000
Wake Technical CC	\$25,000
Western Piedmont CC	\$25,000
Wilkes CC	\$25,000
Wilson CC	\$25,000
YMCA Literacy of Northwest NC	\$25,000
Total	\$1,075,000

Contact(s):

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