

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation of Title II Funding for Pre-Apprenticeship Implementation
FY 2021-22

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve an allocation of \$350,000 of Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) State Leadership funds to expand the use of pre-apprenticeships to Apprenticeship model for increasing credential attainment for adult education students. The purpose of this funding is to support programs that were Finalists in the competitive request for proposals for the national Rethink Adult Education Challenge. Each program will be allocated \$50,000 to implement its pre-apprenticeship model between November 01, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

Strategic Plan Reference(s):

Theme: Economic and Workforce Impact

GOAL: To ensure the educational pipeline prepares a workforce possessing the interest, knowledge, skills, and abilities to meet the needs of employers, now and in the future.

- Objective 3.1: Collaborate with the stakeholders to promote a workforce system that fosters innovation and establishes seamless connections among community colleges, K-12 education, universities, workforce and economic development partners, and business and industry.

Theme: Clear and Supported Pathways for Student Progress and Success

GOAL: Provide a continuum of education, training, advising, and support to help learners make informed decisions that lead to credentials and careers.

- Objective 2.3: Increase completion of credentials for a successful transition to careers and/or further education.
 - Strategy 2.3.4: Support effective advising and coaching to help students determine, pursue, and achieve their educational and career goals.
 - Strategy 2.3.5: Promote guided educational pathways within broader career pathways.

Background: Pre-apprenticeships support adult learners by equipping people with the knowledge and skills they need to enter and succeed in apprenticeships. Pre-apprenticeship participants learn academic skills, such as math and literacy, and workplace skills, such as time management and conflict resolution. Participants also learn about their specific industries — including workplace norms and expectations or the tools and machinery they might use on the job. High-quality pre-apprenticeship programs align to industry demand, set clear pathways into apprenticeships and other industry roles, and provide support services for their participants. These programs have the potential to drive greater and more diverse participation in apprenticeships and the broader workforce.

Rationale: The U.S. Department of Education recently invited AEFLA-funded adult education providers to submit preliminary designs for pre-apprenticeship programs. Programs had to be designed to lead into an apprenticeship or similar role in an industry with high demand. The review panel selected 95 finalists to progress to Stage 2. Out of the 95, seven programs were from North Carolina. These finalists were provided access to a range of digital resources - such as case studies, activities, and webinars with subject matter experts – to help them refine their program designs. The expertise that these seven programs developed allows them to lead a pre-apprenticeship development and implementation model for Title II programs in North Carolina.

The seven finalists from North Carolina, unfortunately, were not selected as Rethink Adult Ed Challenge winners and, therefore, were not given funding from the U.S. Department of Education to implement their developed pre-apprenticeship models. These programs have expressed a need for additional funding from the System Office to operationalize the developed pre-apprenticeship models. This funding will enable these seven programs to expand workforce learning, which will allow for increased credential attainment.

Deliverables:

Providers agree to the following deliverables:

1. Implement a pre-apprenticeship program in Spring of 2022, as developed for the Rethink Adult Education Challenge.
2. Provide mid-year and end-of-year written reports via email.
3. Attend monthly check-ins to share project progression, best practices, and challenges.
4. Develop and submit a budget. Funds can be used to pay for:
 - a. Salaries of staff and faculty to develop and implement a flexible model for pre-apprenticeship,
 - b. Employment of curriculum design specialists to develop industry specific, contextualized curriculum to facilitate concurrent enrollment that equips participants with the necessary academic, occupational, and credentials needed to enter the workforce with opportunities for progression.
 - c. Development and implementation of a comprehensive outreach and recruitment campaign for pre-apprenticeships.
 - d. Student support services
 - e. Instructional software to assist in the implementation of pre-apprenticeship
5. Partnership with WIOA core partners and ApprenticeshipNC.

Evaluation of Success

These seven programs will have a compendium of best practices articles in the newsletter from the professional development team.

Programs will be evaluated on successfully operationalizing their pre-apprenticeship models.

Funding Amount and Time Period: The \$350,000 request is for the period of November 01, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is available from the Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Act State Leadership funds.

Professional Development and Technical Assistance for Pre-Apprenticeship Development	
Colleges and Community-Based Organizations	Allocation
Asheville-Buncombe TCC	\$50,000
Central Carolina CC	\$50,000
Lenoir CC	\$50,000
Nash CC	\$50,000
Pitt CC	\$50,000
Reading Connections, Inc.	\$50,000
Wake TCC	\$50,000
Total	\$350,000

Contact(s):

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