

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Title II Corrections Education Curriculum Improvement Plan
FY 2020-21

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve an allocation of \$665,000 of Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) Section 231 funds to the nineteen currently funded Title II AEFLA Section 225 Corrections Education and Other Institutionalized Individuals (C&I) programs. The purpose of the funding is to support research and planning for development of math and reading curriculum that is contextualized to a regionally in-demand industry that prepares students to enter credential training upon release or concurrently while in the correctional facility.

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 success 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: Per WIOA guidelines, Title II section 225 (C&I) funded programs must: provide a range of adult education and literacy programming designed to assist criminal offenders and other institutionalized individuals with re-entry efforts into the workforce. C&I programs require that funds be used to carry out a program for criminal offenders in a correctional institution, giving priority to serving individuals who are likely to leave the correctional institution within 5 years of participation in the program.

Rationale: Approximately 10% of students who are typically served in North Carolina's Title II programs are in correctional facilities. However, when the Governor of North Carolina declared

a State of Emergency that mandated all state and local government entities and agencies cooperate with the implementation of the North Carolina Emergency Operations Plan, an unintended consequence of this mandated plan caused a steep drop in enrollment of participants in Title II programs. In the Spring 2020, the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the correctional facilities became significant enough that the North Carolina Department of Public Safety suspended all in person visitations at State prisons as a COVID-19 precaution.

As a result of this announcement, Title II personnel are prevented from entering the prisons to provide instruction and testing. This has had a devastating impact on educational opportunities for students in correctional facilities. Through this curriculum improvement project, providers will be prepared and ready to immediately enter the correctional facilities with robust academic plans once the facilities open back up from COVID-19 restrictions to external partners. Funded providers will support faculty and staff salaries to develop short-term, career infused instruction that provides an awareness of career fields and support activities as reflected in the deliverables noted below. Research supports that employment is key to successful reentry. Having a career-infused curriculum will prepare students to be aware of and succeed in training programs.

Deliverables:

Providers agree to the following deliverables:

1. Compile, organize and present end-of-year reports to include best practices and new, contextualized curriculum.
2. Develop and submit a budget. Funds can be used to pay for:
 - a. Salaries of staff and faculty to develop career-infused contextualized curriculum and to plan for re-entry into correctional facilities,
 - b. Employing 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 workforce with opportunities for progression,
 - c. Paying for instructor and staff training to improve their effectiveness as instructional experts,

Funding Amount and Time Period: The \$665,000 request is for the period of February 19 through June 30, 2021.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is available from the Title II Adult Education and Family Literary Act, Section 231.

Corrections Education and Other Institutionalized Individuals Programs (C&I)	
Colleges and Community-Based Organizations	Allocation
Caldwell CC and TI	\$35,000
Catawba Valley CC	\$35,000
College of the Albemarle	\$35,000
Davidson-Davie CC	\$35,000
Gaston College	\$35,000
Isothermal CC	\$35,000
Mayland CC	\$35,000
McDowell TCC	\$35,000
Pamlico CC	\$35,000
Randolph CC	\$35,000
Richmond CC	\$35,000
Rockingham CC	\$35,000
South Piedmont CC	\$35,000
Surry CC	\$35,000
Triangle Literacy Council	\$35,000
Vance-Granville CC	\$35,000
Wake TCC	\$35,000
Western Piedmont CC	\$35,000
Wilkes CC	\$35,000
Total	\$665,000

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