

Adult Education

Historically, K-12 school districts and community colleges have provided adult education instruction. However, there was not effective coordination in all jurisdictions and regional workforce needs were not a focus. As a result, the state has an inefficient and in some places redundant system that is not always structured to best meet the needs of adult learners. Strengthening the link between the state's education and workforce systems is crucial to California's growing economy.

The 2013 Budget Act provided \$25 million Proposition 98 General Fund for two-year planning grants to consortia of community college districts and school districts in 70 regions. The planning builds upon the adult education infrastructure in schools and community colleges. In 2013-14 and 2014-15, K-12 districts also have been required to maintain the 2012-13 level of spending for adult education and career technical education (CTE) programs from funds received through the Local Control Funding Formula.

The Budget provides \$500 million Proposition 98 General Fund for the Adult Education Block Grant, which is an integral component of the state's workforce development strategy, as discussed in the Investing in California's Workforce Chapter. The block grant will fund programs in elementary and secondary basic skills, classes and courses in citizenship and English as a second language for immigrants, education programs for adults with disabilities, short-term CTE programs linked to occupations with high employment potential, and programs for apprentices. To be successful, it is imperative that these programs be well aligned with the economic needs of each region, and that they provide clear pathways to in-demand jobs, as determined by regional labor market information. The program will promote ongoing collaboration amongst different providers and with entities that serve the populations that benefit from adult education; namely, workforce investment boards, social services departments, and correctional rehabilitation agencies.

In order for adult education programs to be well coordinated and linked with the economic needs of their region, the Administration proposes that each consortium designate an allocation board responsible for planning and allocating block grant funds. Each consortium will form an allocation committee consisting of seven members who represent community colleges, K-12 districts, other adult education providers, local workforce investment boards, county social services departments, correctional rehabilitation programs, and one public member with relevant expertise. Each allocation committee will coordinate with regional partners to ensure various adult education funding streams are integrated, such as block grant funds, other K-12 and community college resources, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act allocations, and other federal funds. Each allocation committee will determine how to allocate block grant funds for direct instruction, support services, and administration of its consortium (which will be capped at 5 percent). Each consortium will report annually to the Chancellor and

Superintendent on progress towards fulfilling its adult education plan using all resources available. These reports will inform distribution of block grant funds in the future.

The Chancellor of the Community Colleges and the Superintendent of Public Instruction will jointly approve allocations of funds, with an emphasis on providing funding to those regions with the greatest adult education needs. Funding allocations approved by the Chancellor and Superintendent will be distributed to providers as determined by their allocation committees. In the initial year, to ease the transition, funding will be provided directly to K-12 school districts in the amount of the K-12 districts' maintenance of effort for adult education—as jointly determined by the Chancellor and the Superintendent. Further allocations will be distributed according to the local allocation committees.

A final report from the two-year planning process will be provided by March 1, 2015. This report will inform the accountability framework for delivery of adult education and remaining policy decisions, such as how fees are charged for similar programs delivered by different providers.