

Support Funding for the Adult Education State Grant Program in FY27

Deadline (extended): COB Wednesday, March 25th

Quill link: [here](#)

(Submission instructions are available in the Quill under “supporting information”)

Current FY27 Signers: Adelita Grijalva*, Ami Bera, Sharice Davids, Danny Davis, Diana DeGette, Suzan DelBene, Christopher Deluzio, Dwight Evans, Josh Gottheimer, Adelita Grijalva, Chrissy Houlahan, William Keating, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Summer Lee, Stephen Lynch, Seth Magaziner, Lucy McBath, Morgan McGarvey, Eleanor Norton, Ilhan Omar, Chellie Pingree, Ayanna Pressley, Janice Schakowsky, Greg Stanton, Eric Swalwell, Jill Tokuda, Gabe Vasquez, George Whitesides, Frederica Wilson.

FY26 Signers: Sean Casten, Jasmine Crockett, Sharice Davids, Danny Davis, Suzan DelBene, Sylvia Garcia, Daniel Goldman, Josh Gottheimer, Jahana Hayes, Jonathan Jackson, William Keating, Summer Lee, Stephen Lynch, Seth Magaziner, Lucy McBath, Morgan McGarvey, Ilhan Omar, Jimmy Panetta, Chellie Pingree, Ayanna Pressley, Janice Schakowsky, Greg Stanton, Gabe Vasquez, George Whitesides, Frederica Wilson

Supporting Organization: Coalition on Adult Basic Education

Dear Colleague:

Please join me and Rep. Grijalva in requesting that the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies increase funding for the Adult Education State Grant program to \$810 million for Fiscal Year 2027. This is an increase from \$715 million in Fiscal Year 2026.

Adult education provides numeracy, literacy, digital and information literacy, English language skills, work readiness, soft skills, high school equivalency, and numerous wraparound services. These programs help some of our most vulnerable communities in our country including immigrants, formerly incarcerated persons, and persons without high school diplomas access educational resources, integrate into their community, and participate in our economy

Please join me in requesting this important funding as part of the FY27 Labor, HHS and Education appropriations bill.

If you have any questions, please contact Jesse Rodriguez (jesse.rodriguez@mail.house.gov).

Thank you,

Dan Goldman

Member of Congress

Adelita Grijalva

Member of Congress

Letter Text:

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro:

As you begin to craft the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you increase funding for the Adult Education State Grant program to \$810 million. Further, we ask you to specify this funding in the bill text.

The need for adult education has grown more acute in recent years as the skills gap has widened. Findings by the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) indicate that low performance in literacy increased from 19 to 28 percent and numeracy from 29 to 34 percent of U.S. adults between 2017 and 2023. Combined with the fact that 50 percent of the workforce will have to reskill by 2030, it is no surprise that 75 percent of employers are already finding it difficult to fill vacancies for in-demand jobs. At current funding levels, adult education programs, many of which have waiting lists, can only reach approximately 1.1 million people. Without the opportunities provided through adult education programs, many adults will be sidelined from the economy as they struggle to find jobs that provide family-sustaining wages, and employers will continue to face workforce shortages.

To address this critical need, we urge you to work toward doubling funding for adult education over the next five years, with a first installment of at least \$810 million for the Adult Education State Grant program in FY27.

Adult education provides literacy, numeracy, digital and information literacy, English language skills, work readiness, soft skills, high school equivalency, and numerous wraparound services. These programs help some of our most vulnerable communities in our country including immigrants, formerly incarcerated persons, and persons without high school diplomas access educational resources, integrate into their community, and participate in our economy. If properly resourced and supported, adult education programs can be the difference between earning a family-sustaining wage and struggling to make ends meet. It should be a top priority to ensure a healthy resilient economy that lifts up all communities and provides employers with a pool of skilled workers.

According to a recent study, the cost of illiteracy in the U.S. is approximately \$300.8 billion per year, stemming from lost earnings, lower productivity, less innovation, increased need for government assistance, and more. Now is the time to build the capacity of adult education programs, and in doing so, strengthen our workforce development system and our overall economy.

We urge you to increase funding for the Adult Education State Grant program to \$810 million for FY27 and specifically delineate this funding in the bill text.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

[[CLOSING]]

[[SIGNATURES]]