

Federal ABE Competitive Provider Applications

Summary

The Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota's ABE agency, proposes to implement a competitive process for distributing federal WIOA Title II funds and allows eligible entities to compete for these funds by showing their proven success in providing adult literacy services and by indicating how their programming aligns to and supports the 13 considerations. The competition application process will be implemented starting fall 2016 for funding starting July 1, 2017.

Process for Local Workforce Development Boards

1. **December 2016:** Minnesota Department of Education will send local workforce development boards a list of expected ABE applicants that will be submitted in March 2017 that cover their workforce development area. This estimate will be based on potential applicants submitting a letter of intent to apply.
2. **December 2016-March 2017:** Local Workforce Development Boards will decide which representatives will read and provide feedback their area's ABE provider applications. Representatives could include any, some or all of the following: board members, WDA directors, workforce center staff, and/or other designees. Local workforce development boards need to submit the representative(s) information (name, phone, email) to Cherie Eichinger at the Minnesota Department of Education (cherie.eichinger@state.mn.us) before March 15, 2017.
3. **February 2017:** The Minnesota Department of Education will be recruiting official grant reviewers to evaluate applications by region. Reviewers will include state and local adult educators. Workforce development board members, WDA directors, workforce center staff, and/or other representatives are welcome to volunteer via email by March 10, 2017. Reviewers must be able to participate in a one-day in-person session the week of April 10, 2017, at the Minnesota Department of Education.
4. **March 16-April 9, 2017:** Representative(s) designated by the local workforce development boards will receive the ABE provider applications for their area from staff at the Minnesota Department of Education. Designated representative(s) will read the applications and document feedback. Feedback should focus on the "Collaboration and Contextualization" section of the applications and highlight how well the ABE provider application aligns to the local workforce development plan as well as strengths, recommendations and questions about the application. Feedback will be documented on a form provided by the Minnesota Department of Education. Representative(s) can either conduct the review virtually or collectively in-person:
 - A. If done virtually, each local board should submit one form per applicant. Feedback should be compiled to create one composite form per applicant.
 - B. If done collectively in-person, representative(s) should develop and submit one collective form per applicant.
5. **April 10, 2017:** All reviews should be submitted by email to Cherie Eichinger by 10:00am at the Minnesota Department of Education (cherie.eichinger@state.mn.us). The local WDB feedback will be provided to the official application reviewers recruited by the Minnesota Department of Education.

Local Workforce Development Board Feedback

Representatives designated by the local workforce development boards will provide feedback on a simple form from the Minnesota Department of Education that asks:

1. Which Local Workforce Development Board representatives participated in the review?
2. What parts of the reviewed sections of this application align to the local and regional workforce development plans?

3. What additional strengths do you see in this potential provider's application?
4. What recommendations do you have about this application, including recommendations to improve alignment to the local or regional workforce development plan?
5. What questions do you have about this application?

ABE Provider Application: Collaboration and Contextualization Section

- Responsive to regional needs in local plan and serving individuals most in need
- Alignment between proposed activities and services with strategy and goals of local plan and services of one-stop partners
- Provide learning in context, including through integrated education and training, to assist in transition to and completion of postsecondary education and training, and obtaining employment
- Coordination with other education, training, and social service resources in the community

For more information

Brad Hasskamp, Adult Secondary Credential and Education Policy Specialist

Minnesota Department of Education

Brad.hasskamp@state.mn.us

Jodi Versaw, ABE Program Quality Specialist

Minnesota Department of Education

Jodi.versaw@state.mn.us