

**National Council of State Directors of Adult Education****National Council of State Directors of Adult Education*****Recommendations for the Obama Transition Team
The First 100 Days**

We appreciate the opportunity to offer recommendations for the first one hundred days of the Obama administration. We look forward to working with the Transition Team and with the Obama administration to provide adult education and literacy services that enable all adults to fully realize their work, family and community opportunities.

Priorities

1. **Increase access for adult education and family literacy services.**
2. **Reauthorize the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act as a part of WIA or as a separate bill.**
3. **Incorporate English Literacy/ Civics into the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.**
4. **Refocus NIFL to its original purpose—supporting adult education and family literacy.**
5. **Re-establish a national adult education research center.**
6. **Strengthen the delivery system by expanding Career Pathways and Transition to Postsecondary.**
7. **Establish a line item in the Labor WIA Title I budget for One Stop infrastructure funds.**
8. **Uncouple the WIA Incentive grants.**

1. Increase access for adult education and family literacy services.

- 90 million adults have reading, math and/or English literacy deficiencies (National Assessment of Adult Literacy, 2005).
- 2 ½ million adults can now be served.
- OMB PART rates adult education and literacy as “Effective”—1 of only 4 of the Department of Education’s 92 programs to receive that rating.
- We recommend increasing access to adult education and literacy services over the four years of the first Obama administration.
 - 5 million served in 2010-2011
 - 7 ½ million served in 2011-2012
 - 10 million served in 2012-2013
 - 12 ½ million served in 2013-2014

2. Reauthorize the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act as a part of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) or as a separate bill.

- The 1998 Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, intended to be reauthorized in 2005, is yet to be acted upon.
- We recommend reauthorizing the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.

3. Incorporate English Literacy/ Civics into the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.

- The EL/Civics program has provided critical citizenship preparation for immigrants and refugees.
- The EL/Civics program found in the appropriations bill has never been authorized.
- We recommend incorporating the EL/Civics program into the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act and maintaining the current funding provisions.

4. Refocus the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) to its original purpose—supporting adult education and family literacy.

- We recommend appointing an adult educator as director of NIFL.
- We recommend appointing adult educators to the NIFL Advisory Board.

5. Re-establish a national adult education research center.

- Research is essential for effective practice.
- For the past three years, there has been no national adult education research center as a result of decisions by the current administration.

**NCSDAE National Council of State Directors of Adult Education**

- We recommend re-establishing a national adult education research center.
6. **Strengthen the delivery system by expanding Career Pathways and Transition to Postsecondary.**
- Adult education has developed strong program components to meet a variety of needs including family literacy to halt intergenerational illiteracy, GED and adult high school, workplace education with on-site industry centers enabling employees to maintain their jobs, health literacy, senior citizen literacy, and English literacy and citizenship.
 - Adult education programs are focusing on blending basic skills and occupational training to enable adults to qualify for high demand jobs in their community.
 - We recommend
 - strengthening the federal support for the development of these 'pathway' services to enable unemployed and underemployed adults to obtain jobs with family sustaining incomes, and
 - enabling dual enrollment in basic skills/ESL and occupational training.
7. **Establish a line item in the Labor WIA Title I budget for One Stop infrastructure funds.**
- Proposals are on the table to use partner agencies' limited administrative funds to support the WIA Title I One Stop centers.
 - We recommend establishing a line item in the Labor budget to support the One Stop centers.
8. **Uncouple the WIA Incentive grants.**
- Because adult education state programs are often meeting their performance measures when other partners are not, their diligent work is not rewarded.
 - We recommend 'uncoupling' the incentive grants establishing a separate incentive grant for adult education programs.

*The National Council of State Directors of Adult Education (www.ncsdae.org) is a membership organization of the adult education state directors in the states, territories, and outlying areas serving two and a half million adult learners annually.

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