



Improving Economic Mobility for Adult Learners Application Questions

The Improving Economic Mobility for Adult Learners Initiative aims to bolster college success for adult learners. Achieving The Dream (ATD) and Jobs for the Future (JFF) developed the initiative to expand upon and enhance current policies and practices that states and institutions have designed specifically to improve outcomes for adult learners in community and technical colleges. State-level entities that meet the eligibility criteria are welcome to apply by answering the questions below. See the overview document for eligibility, expectations, criteria for selection, and full description of initiative activities.

Please note that eligibility is open only to state-level organizations that oversee and/or influence policy, funding, and reporting within states with existing state-wide, evidence-based efforts designed to enroll and support adult learners in community and technical colleges. States will determine which colleges to partner with for this initiative. Only one organization per state should apply.

Proposal Due Date: Friday, May 5, 2023, 5 p.m. ET

1) Applicant Information

- a. Applicant organization
- b. Applicant contact
- c. Applicant email

2) Current policies and practices (Please limit responses to 1,000 words)

- a. State-level

1. What current policies and practices are in place statewide to improve the outcomes of adult students? At what scale have they been implemented?
2. What are the desired outcomes of these policies/practices? What aspects of the adult student experience are they intended to impact?
3. Does your state offer a specific program and/or incentives for adults to enroll or re-enroll in community college programs? If so, what are they?
4. Please share the outcome data of these programs and/or incentives. If this data is not available, please share other data that illustrates what is known about enrollment, retention, and completion trends for adult students.
5. Please share specific examples of how your organization has been able to drive significant changes in policy and/or practice that led to improved outcomes.

b. College-level level (Please limit responses to 1,200 words total, 400 per college)

1. Please identify the three colleges that will be participating. For each, please describe:
 - i. How was this college selected?
 - ii. What are the current policies and practices the selected colleges have in place to improve the outcomes of adult students? At what scale have they been implemented?
 - iii. What are the desired outcomes of these policies/practices? What aspects of the adult student experience are they intended to impact? Please share any relevant intended outcomes as related to enrollment, retention, and completion.
2. Please share outcome data that illustrates what is known about enrollment, retention, and completion trends for adult students at each college.

3) Expanding Current Policy and Practice (Please limit responses to 600 words.)

- a. What problem(s) are you seeking to address through this initiative (at the state and college levels)?
- b. Based on your experience to date and lessons learned, what policies and practices might you want to adopt or expand at the state level to address these problems and/or build upon your progress?
- c. Based on experience to date and lessons learned at each of the three participating colleges, what policies and practices might be adopted or expanded at the college level to address the problems described above and/or build upon your progress?
- d. How will the policies and practices identified at the state and institutional improve outcomes for adult students with low incomes and/or Black, Latinx, and/or Indigenous students?

4) Project structure (Please limit responses to 450 words.)

- a. Describe the titles and roles for this initiative of each staff person or faculty on the Core Team. (Each Core Team must include 1 – 2 senior leaders at the state level, and, at each participating institution, at least one senior leader and 1-2 staff or faculty.)
- b. Describe the communication, coordination, and decision-making structures you will implement to manage the project at the state and institutional levels.
- c. Describe any existing communication structures and policy processes between the state and institutions you will utilize and build upon.

5) Budget

Each state will receive \$200,000 in funds to cover costs associated with participation, such as project staff, travel costs, faculty release time, and other costs.

- a. Describe the state-level and institutional costs you intend to cover with your state's \$200,000 grant. (All applicants chosen to participate in the initiative will submit a full budget for the \$200,000 grant following selection.)

6) Data collection (Please limit responses to 300 words)

- a. Describe the current state and institutional systems you currently use to collect data related to adult student outcomes and service provision.
- b. What data is currently being collected and analyzed at the state and college levels (e.g., student success data, labor market data, etc.) and how is that data shared within the college communities and the system?

7) Ongoing implementation following grant period (150 words)

How will you continue to support the effective implementation of the policies/practices you identify and implement during this initiative?

8) Leadership Commitments

Please send letters of commitment from the most senior executive leader of the applicant organization and from each of the three participating colleges to adultlearnersinfo@jff.org. Letters should indicate an institutional commitment to support the core team in implementing evidence-based policies and practices at the state and college levels to better support adult learners. Please make sure to name your document as follows: state abbreviation_name of applicant organization (e.g. MA_JobsfortheFuture).

9) Data Submission

Please submit the outcomes data associated with question 2 as email attachments (Word, Excel, PDF). Please use the same naming convention and include brief description of the information provided (e.g., MA_JobsfortheFuture_College_Outcomes). Your submission should illustrate trends over time (2 or more years) for enrollment, retention, and completion for adult learners

- Please submit data for the state as well as each college.
- Please disaggregate data by race, gender, and income status
- Include part-time and full-time students
- Include noncredit students if possible