Department of Education

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ADULT EDUCATION MEMO NO. 081-24

**DATE:** October 21, 2024

**TO:** Adult Education Program Administrators

**FROM:** Dr. Heidi Silver-Pacuilla, Director

 Office of Adult Education

**SUBJECT: Announcing Innovation Challenge Awards in Adult Education**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), Office Adult Education, is pleased to announce Innovation Challenge Awards for program year 2024-2025. These funds are made available through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Title II, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA). Grant recipients are required to adhere to the special terms and conditions in [Supporting Document A](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=58220&t=638654594887113651). Final award amounts are found in [Supporting Document B](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=58222&t=638654594969627432). Fiscal details of each award are listed in [Supporting Document C](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=58224&t=638654595032029508).

The awardees represent many excellent examples of [regional programs](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/specialized-instruction/adult-education/adult-education-regional-programs) across the Commonwealth seizing partnership opportunities to expand educational and training services for adults in their communities. Highlights include awards to:

* ***Serve the incarcerated population*** in correctional facilities at the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail and among a coalition of providers in the Northern Neck to prepare individuals for successful reentry and employment.
* ***Expand integrated education and training (IET) and credentialing*** to assist more adults to attain industry-recognized credentials in the Southwest region, the Shenandoah Valley, Crater Region, and on the Peninsula. See the [IET Blueprint](https://ietblueprint.com/) for all IET plans for the program year 2024-2025.
* ***Expand service to underserved communities*** in the northern Shenandoah Valley, Prince William and Stafford counties, and the cities of Charlottesville and Hopewell to meet expressed needs and maximize opportunities presented by partners such as local libraries.

If you have further questions, please contact Heidi Silver-Pacuilla, Ph.D., Director, by email at OAEL@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 774-2377.

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