

# ADULT EDUCATION'S GOOD NEWS!

GRANT TITLES: Adult Education Workforce Investment Act (WIA)  
Michigan Dept. of Labor, Energy & Economic Growth (DELEG)

GRANT AWARDS: Federal General Instruction (**\$79,200 Continuing, \$10,800 New**)  
Federal EL-Civics (**\$25,000 New!**)  
Federal Institutional (**\$30,000 New!**)



## PARTNERS

- **Ann Arbor District Library**
- **Hikone Community Center & C.A.N. (Community Action Network)**
- **University of Michigan Hospital & Health Centers (UMHC)**
- **Washtenaw County Jail**
- **Washtenaw Literacy**

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

For 2009-10, Adult Ed (AE) received two new grants and an increased amount of a continuing grant.

- Newly funded is the Federal Institutional (\$30,000), which pays for ABE (Adult Basic Education, also known as Pre-GED, Math and Reading) at the Washtenaw County Jail. This new funding allows AE to serve adult learners at the Jail who need to improve their math and or reading skills in order to take the GED Preparation class (which is offered, along with GED testing and a Computer Literacy class, by the AE Jail program). This Federal funding adds to the contract AE already had with the County.
- The Federal EL-Civics (\$25,000) grant supplements AE's contract with UM Hospital by adding new components to the English As A Second Language (ESL) program for employees. These funds are also being used to pilot a "Targeted Work Skills" class designed to meet the needs of distinct UM Hospital departments. AE developed the course proposal more than a year ago at the request of PFANS, the Hospital Department of Patient Food and Nutrition Services, and was able to obtain funding this year. The "Targeted Work Skills" course designed specifically for PFANS will begin in early spring and its goal is to increase student/employee achievement of cultural competency using verbal and nonverbal communication in a food service setting. AE's existing contract with UM Hospital also supports a Study Skills/GED Prep class. All classes are located at the Hospital.
- The largest grant, for \$90,000, provides adult learners (ages 18 and older) in Ann Arbor and surrounding communities with classes in ESL and GED Preparation. This grant helps pay for instruction, advising and secretarial support services (which are shared with Stone), as well as supplies and textbooks for this core program.
- In addition to the above programs and services, these grants include funding for an Adult Ed partnership with Washtenaw Literacy. This collaboration provides tutoring based on curriculum enrichment plans designed for each specific group of students (examples: Pre-GED Reading at the Jail and ESL at UM Hospital). This contract gives all AE students instructional reinforcement and increased access to one-on-one and small group assistance.

## PLAN OF OPERATION

Adult Education's standards of quality and respect are well-established and reassuring to adults who have previously not been successful in school or who are from other countries and do not speak English as their first language. All AAPS AE programs operate according to state and federal guidelines as well as specific grant regulations. Assessment of all federal and state funded students is done using mandated pre and post tests. Data is collected and entered in MAERS (Michigan Adult Education Recordkeeping System) which provides reports the Director analyzes for continual improvement. With the exception of the UM Hospitals' pilot, all programs are underway and registration for second semester has just begun.

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## **PLAN OF OPERATION** (Continued...)

Certified instructors provide free welcoming and respectful instruction with extensive experience teaching adult learners at a variety of class sites (UM Hospital, County Jail, Stone School, Malletts Creek Library and Hikone Community Center). Curricula include objectives, outcomes, approaches, activities, and textbooks and materials that have proven effective for adults. Instructional strategies are enriched with differentiated approaches and best practices developed by experienced instructors and enhanced through teamwork and professional development. Technology, where available, is being integrated in relevant contexts. For example, GED Prep students must now register online for the GED test and ESL students at Stone receive instruction using laptop computers one day a week.

## **DESIRED RESULTS**

The central mission of Adult Education is to provide adult learners with the education needed to become successful, contributing community members, as defined by their educational and employment goals.

For ESL students, this means improving English language skills in personal, social and workplace contexts, as well as developing increased cultural awareness. Parallel objectives are to increase ESL program participants' knowledge of, and ability to access, community resources and post secondary education and/or training. If students are also parents, skills learned in the ESL program will enable them to participate more fully in their children's educations.

For GED students, the program focus is to help adult learners obtain the knowledge and skills needed to pass the GED test while developing workplace and post secondary readiness.

In order to most effectively attain these desired results, the goals of the Adult Education program include:

Providing a free, respectful and accessible learning environment;

Building bridges for the students to post secondary education, family sustaining careers and life long learning;

Partnering with other Washtenaw County organizations and institutions to create a unified, strategic approach to increase access to adult learning.

Adult Education is committed to the AAPS equity objectives and, towards that end, has created the Adult Education Collaborating Council, a group made up of all Adult Ed staff and representatives from community organizations whose intended outcomes are:

- To increase awareness of and accessibility to community resources by building a collaborative partnership model between a core group of resources.
- To increase understanding of the challenges faced by adult learners (ages 18 and older) to develop a self-assessment framework based on the multi-dimensional perspectives of our clients.
- To learn specifically about the barriers to access and achievement faced by students of color in order to use that increased knowledge to eliminate barriers in our organizations as well as in our individual interactions with adult learners.

**Dear Board of Education Members,**

**We would love to have you visit one of our Adult Education classes. Please call my work (734-216-0365) or personal (734-272-9394) cell to make arrangements. I guarantee this visit will lift your spirits!**

**On behalf of all Adult Ed students and with appreciation for all you do,**

*Sharman*

***Sharman Spieser, Director, Adult Education & Liaison, WISD Education Project for Homeless Youth***