Dear Applicant:

On behalf of Adult and Community Learning Services (ACLS), I want to thank you for your interest in providing Adult Basic Education (ABE) Transition to Community College services to the Commonwealth’s undereducated adults. The ABE system has a long history of providing effective services that address the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s mission to provide each and every adult with opportunities to develop literacy skills needed to qualify for postsecondary education, certificate programs for better employment, and to reach his/her full potential as a family member, productive worker and citizen.

In 2010, ESE released Facing the Future: The Massachusetts Strategic Framework for Adult Basic Education (http://www.doe.mass.edu/acls/sp/FacingTheFuture.pdf), which was the culmination of many years of research, collective wisdom, and the experience of many adult educators across the state. Facing the Future guides the state’s response to the needs of the undereducated and limited English proficient adults in the context of three major public policy goals - the Commonwealth’s education goals, its economic and workforce development goals, and its goals for civic engagement and community strength. The three goals of Facing the Future are as follows:

1. Ensure that adults needing basic education have access to services
2. Increase system effectiveness and quality of the ABE system
3. Prepare students for success in their next steps: in college and further training, at work, and in the community

The priorities of the ABE Transition to Community College Program directly address the third goal of helping to prepare adult students for success in their next steps by promoting the integration of students into the community college and ensuring both college-readiness strategies and degree-bearing college credit instruction along with an intensive advising component. These components are paramount to successful transition programming for students who are often the first in their families to attend postsecondary education, and who therefore need a strong foundation with much support to prepare them to effectively navigate the college system. Transition programming is a viable next step for ABE students to ensure a smooth transition to and success in college that will lead to a career that pays a family-sustaining wage.

Support for the ABE Transition to Community College Program underscores ACLS’s commitment to continuing to build bridges between adult basic education programs and the community college system.

A response to this RFP must address ABE Transition to Community College programming (Fund Code 668) at community colleges across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Patricia Gregson
Associate Commissioner, Vocational, Workforce and College Readiness Programming