*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley*Commissioner* |  |

July 25, 2022

Dear Applicant:

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has released the statewide FY2024-FY2028 Open and Competitive Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for Adult Education in Correctional Institutions Program Services (AECI).

The purpose of these grants is to:

1. Carry out corrections education and education for other institutionalized individuals using funds provided under section 225 of the Act for the cost of educational programs for criminal offenders in correctional institutions and those living in the community while under parole or probation supervision, including academic programs for:
	1. Adult education, literacy activities, and English for Speakers of Other Languages;
	2. Special education, as determined by the eligible agency;
	3. Secondary school credit;
	4. Career pathways;
	5. Concurrent enrollment;
	6. Peer tutoring; and
	7. Transition to re-entry initiatives and other post-release-services with the goal of reducing recidivism and facilitate:
		1. Reentry into society;
		2. Further education and training or employment upon release;
		3. Economic self-sufficiency; and
		4. Smooth transitions in their roles as family members and citizens.
2. Reduce disparity in education by providing, in collaboration with WIOA partners and others, high quality AE programming that provides an inclusive and welcoming environment, rigorous curriculum and instruction, and related services responsive to and supportive of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
3. Support innovation in the development of AE services to effectively serve eligible individuals most in need of education services through in-person and remote instruction and in coordination and collaboration with WIOA partner services.
4. Improve and accelerate participant outcomes, especially educational functioning level completion, high school equivalency (HSE) credential or high school diploma (ADP) attainment, and enrollment in post-secondary education or training.

Approximately $2.5 million in state and federal funding is available for grants. Please see the [RFP](https://www.doe.mass.edu/acls/rfp/default.html) for more details and information on upcoming virtual bidders’ conferences.

Adult education is a core part of the DESE’s work. We invite you to join us in working with our WIOA partners to provide an adult education system that expands education and training options for out-of-school youth and adult learners to help them access postsecondary education and advance in their careers.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education