*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  *Commissioner* |  |

July 14, 2017

Dear Applicant:

I am pleased to release the *FY2019-FY2022 Multi-Year Open and Competitive Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for Adult Education*. These RFPs reflect the goalsand vision of the [*Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-113publ128/pdf/PLAW-113publ128.pdf) (WIOA), signed into law by President Obama on July 22, 2014, and the [*WIOA* *Combined State Plan*](http://www.mass.gov/massworkforce/state-plan/wioa-2020/ma-wioa-state-plan-final-4-7-16.pdf), signed by Governor Baker on March 30, 2016.

The adult education system is designed to provide academic instruction and education services below the postsecondary level to out-of-school youth and adults in order to assist them to become literate and obtain knowledge and skills for employment and economic self-sufficiency; support the educational and skill achievement of parents and family members to participate in the educational development of their children and improve economic opportunities for families; assist immigrants and English Language Learners in improving their English and mathematics proficiency and understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; and assist incarcerated individuals in strengthening their knowledge and skills to promote successful reentry into society. In addition, the goal of the adult education system in this funding cycle is to:

* make the adult education system more responsive to the demands of the state economy and specific job markets by better aligning adult education and regional labor market needs in collaboration with WIOA partners;
* better serve job seekers by adopting a career pathways approach that coordinates service delivery across agencies and identifies “shared customers” to be served in an integrated manner beginning with assessment and along career pathways until customers are employed in jobs that pay family-sustaining wages;
* respond to the challenge of better serving individuals with barriers to employment, including over one million Massachusetts residents who lack a high school diploma or need to learn English to succeed in the workforce; and
* promote innovation and flexibility and raise the bar on quality considerations and student outcomes.

Adult education is a core part of the Department’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 R. Wulfson  
Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education