*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

April 2020

Dear Grant Applicant:

Enclosed for your review and response is the FY2021 Request for Proposals (RFP) for Adult Basic Education (ABE) Continuation Grants. This RFP is intended for grantees currently funded by the Adult and Community Learning Services (ACLS) unit of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE). This continuation application package is for use by the following grant programs:

* **Community Adult Learning Centers**– Fund Codes: 340/671 (Federal) and 345/661 (State)
* **ABE Instructional Program for Incarcerated Adults** – Fund Codes: 285 (Federal) and 563 (State)
* **Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education** – Fund Code 359 (Federal)

To be considered for refunding, programs must meet the requirements and intent of authorizing state and federal legislation and regulations governing the program and must have conducted a successful program based on the WIOA Federal Measures.

Applications for grant recipients that are **state agencies** and use the state’s accounting system MMARS are encouraged to submit applications no later than **Friday, May 15, 2020** to allow sufficient time to process ISA’s. Applications for both federally and state-funded projects are due no later than **Friday, June 5, 2020 at 3:00PM.** These deadlines have been set to allow funding to flow at the start of the new fiscal year on July 1, 2020. However, given the current coronavirus state of emergency, please reach out to us if you anticipate any difficulty meeting these deadlines.

See Table 1 – Funding Allocations for fund codes 340/671/345/661/359/285/563. Grant amounts were determined through a proposal review during the FY19 O&C process based on regional allocations, regional educational need, the demand for services, and historical funding and score of the proposal. As outlined in the FY19-22 Open and Competitive RFP and in policy, some programs had their awards reduced because of under-enrollment of FY19 and/or FY20 funded seats and others received increases for meeting and/or exceeding their enrollment targets.

In addition, optional additional funding is included in FY21 to prioritize building capacity to address the increased need for adult education services (option 1), curriculum and instruction (option 2), and online/remote learning opportunities (option 3).

Funding is subject to state and federal appropriation and therefore all dollar amounts listed are estimated and subject to change. If additional funding becomes available, it will be distributed according to programs demonstrated capacity to provide additional seats and active waitlist. Please note that no expense may be charged to the grant until DESE has approved the budget. State and federal regulations require that separate and auditable records be maintained for each grant program that is funded.

We look forward to reviewing your grant application and continuing our work together in providing highly effective services to undereducated and limited-English proficient adults in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

**Wyvonne Stevens-Carter**

Adult Education State Director