*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

July 25, 2022

Dear Applicant:

I am pleased to release the [F*Y2024-FY2028 Open and Competitive Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for Adult Education in Correctional Institutions Program Services*](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2024/285-563/). This RFP will fund *Adult Education in Correctional Institutions (AECI) Program Services* to provide adult education services to justice-involved individuals in Massachusetts who seek a high school credential (HiSET/GED) and/or need to learn English to return to their communities and succeed in the workforce.

The Adult and Community Learning Services (ACLS) Unit at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) envisions a future where every adult in Massachusetts has the knowledge, skills, and support they need to lead the life they aspire to live.

With this RFP, ACLS is looking to partner with AECI programs committed to providing culturally responsive instruction and services that prepares individuals in institutional settings and those living in the community while under parole or probation supervision to be able to re-engage as residents and active members of their communities and the global community. To achieve this vision, it is imperative that our education partners design innovative program models that embed digital literacy and workforce preparation activities ensuring all students, especially those transitioning from the justice system, have equitable access to quality instruction, advising, job training, and career pathways.

ACLS sets high expectations and provides support to achieve them, promotes flexible options for learning that honor the diversity of students and advance equity and inclusion, fosters collaborations that enhance student success in employment and higher education, and holds ourselves and our providers accountable for results.

The Massachusetts adult education system serves as an on-ramp to the workforce development system, enabling individuals not yet ready to participate in that system with opportunities to advance students to a career pathways and employment in jobs that pay family-sustaining wages and opportunities that would be otherwise out of their reach. This RFP is one of many RFPs that are being released by the Department to offer comprehensive adult education system in Massachusetts.

The RFP presents opportunities to offer innovative adult education services and expand the reach of adult education in institutional settings by augmenting or extending instruction beyond the classroom to overcome institutional or structural barriers that limit access to education.

Sincerely,

Wyvonne Stevens-Carter

Adult Education State Director