*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

### 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906 Telephone: (781) 338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

January 2023

Dear Applicant:

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has released the FY2024-2028 Planning and Implementation Request for Proposals to administer MassSTEP ABE and MassSTEP ESOL services. 

MassSTEP ABE provides adult education (AE) concurrently and contextually with workforce preparation activities, and workforce training (occupational skills training) to accelerate learning outcomes, including student attainment of a high school credential and one or more relevant industry-recognized credentials (IRCs). MassSTEP ESOL provides adult ESOL instruction concurrently and contextually with civics education in addition to workforce preparation activities and workforce training to accelerate learning outcomes, including student attainment of one or more relevant IRCs.

These grants are designed for partnerships among education providers, Career/Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) programs, training providers, employers, and workforce partners to identify and implement instructional programs for adult learners in high wage/high demand career pathways. Collaborations with local MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Centers, and Career/Vocational Technical Education programs are strongly encouraged.

Applying for a planning grant is optional. Applicants can apply for an implementation grant without applying for a planning grant. Approximately $2,600,000 in state/federal funding is available for these grants. Please see the RFP for more details and information on upcoming virtual bidders’ conferences.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley   
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education