

RFP #26RFP19640
Responses to Written Inquiries
16 April 2026

- 1) How many adult students in South Dakota shall be served by this Request for Proposal?**
 - The Agency seeks to serve and assist as many South Dakotans as possible. However, a definitive figure cannot be provided, as the scope of services will be determined by local Statements of Need and operational costs. For quantitative context, Applicants should reference the National Reporting System’s [public site](#) for South Dakota.

- 2) How does an Applicant detail Program-Participant Costs as requested in Section 7.2.8?**
 - The Applicant might consider its recent annual cost-per-student calculations, much like the Applicant submits Demonstrated Effectiveness. The Applicant may also reference cost-levels attributed to various programming and service-delivery models (e.g., Distance Learning versus Onsite classroom costs, GED® Test Preparation versus ESL offerings, Integrated Education and Training versus Family Literacy classes).

- 3) Given the anticipated reduction in federal funding and the potential for continued instability into the second program year, can DLR provide insight into the decision to proceed with a two-year RFP at this time? Specifically, how is the state balancing the need for competition with the benefits of continuity and stability in service delivery during a period of fiscal uncertainty?**
 - DLR chose a two-year grant cycle for this iteration to align with the WIOA State Plan’s timeline.
 - DLR conducted a multiyear AEFLA grant-competition in 2022 with annual awards for up to four years. Resultingly, to award subrecipient agreements beginning July 2026, the Agency is required, in accordance with [SDCL 5-18D-21](#), to conduct an RFP for the provision of Adult Education services.
 - The Department of Labor and Regulation, as South Dakota’s pass-through Agency for AEFLA funding, has little influence over federal levels of funding.

- 4) Can you clarify the amount and structure of any state funding that will be made available through this RFP? Will there be state-level investments to offset federal reductions, and if so, how will those funds be allocated?**
 - The anticipated funding level of *State General Funds* for PY2026 AEFLA activities is \$1,309,093.00.
 - PY2025’s *State General Funds* totaled \$1,282,446.00.
 - No, state-level investments will not offset federal reductions. Having previously experienced funding-related challenges as a minimally funded state under AEFLA, the Agency shall endeavor to leverage its *Unobligated* funds [and potentially some modest *Carryover*] to mitigate any variance in formula funding.
 - AEFLA funds have a 27-month Obligation period.

- 5) **Given the current and potential future reductions in funding, what modifications to award structures are being considered (e.g., funding tiers, partial awards, performance-based adjustments)? Additionally, what level of flexibility should applicants anticipate if further federal reductions occur during the grant cycle?**
- The Request for Proposal’s *Funding Formula* is detailed in [Section 7.1](#).
 - As to expected flexibility with funding, please note Sections A.1., B.15., and B.16 within the [Subrecipient Agreement Template](#).
- 6) **How are program expectations evolving in response to reduced funding levels? Are there anticipated changes to performance benchmarks, enrollment expectations, or service priorities for which applicants should plan?**
- South Dakota’s federally negotiated WIOA Title II Performance Targets are largely based on percentage, not necessarily raw numbers or numbers served. In other words, South Dakota’s Negotiated PY2026 Target for Measurable Skill Gains will be 37% whether a local provider serves 15 or 150 eligible adults.
 - While federal accountability generally prioritizes *Performance*, the Agency may similarly prioritize *Participation*.
 - *Participation* may be understood as Instructional Access, Enrollments, Reportables & Participants, Intensity & Duration, WIOA Co-Enrollments, and beyond. Still, Adult Education programs often need to consider necessary changes to their service-delivery models to remain responsive, relevant, and effective.
- 7) **Should applicants proactively design proposals that include contingency plans for additional funding cuts? If so, are there preferred approaches or parameters the state would like applicants to follow?**
- As noted in WIOA statute, eligible providers of AEFLA services potentially include consortia, coalitions, and even partnerships with employers.
 - Proposals should be based upon the estimated funding noted in Section 1.1 of the [RFP](#).
 - The Agency encourages Applicants to highlight their partnerships as contextual capacity for serving the most-in-need [or difficult-to-serve] individuals across their respective service-area(s).
- 8) **Are there other key considerations, priorities, or anticipated changes that applicants should be aware of when developing proposals under these financial conditions?**
- Applicants will find no significant changes from the 2022 Request for Proposal and its Scoring Rubric. However, one notable change is the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) [interpretation](#).

9) Is hosting an activity at a local business considered a *Workplace Activity*? Does a specific curriculum need to be developed to correspond with the host business' needs to be considered a *Workplace Activity*?

- Per [statute](#) (Pub. L. 113-128; §203.16), the term “workplace adult education and literacy activities” means adult education and literacy activities offered by an eligible provider in collaboration with an employer or employee organization at a workplace or an off-site location that is designed to improve the productivity of the workforce.
 - Yes, if the instruction is deemed allowable under the AEFLA grant, Adult Education services at a local business would be generally considered a *Workplace Literacy Activity*.
- Specific curriculum may not necessarily be required, but the Agency encourages any Applicant to formalize such initiatives with documentation outlining the scope of the project and detailing how the effort upskills the workforce.

