

2025-30 AEFLA Request for Proposals Frequently Asked Questions

This is a compilation of questions from the technical assistance sessions as well as questions submitted via email. If you have any others, please email us at adulthoodgrants@ed.sc.gov.

Before you Submit

Q. What are “second party resources” and how do they apply to the writing of this grant opportunity?

A. Using the past or present work of another applicant for a current competitive grant proposal is prohibited. Engaging the assistance of outside grant writers is permitted.

English as a Second Language

Q. Will my program be required to offer ESL services?

A. If your program operates within a county that is identified as having more than 1000 Limited English Proficient individuals (see chart on pages 98-99 of the RFP), your program will be required to offer ESL services to interested individuals in need of English language instruction. If your county falls below the 1000 individual threshold, your program will be required to offer access to ESL services, though the provision of local ESL services is not prohibited. It is up to the discretion of the program to determine how to share access to ESL instruction to interested students. Programs will have the option of purchasing English language learning software (e.g. Burlington English, Rosetta Stone) or offering access to the SC ESL Distance Learning hub, which will be provided by the Office of Adult Education, through a partnership with Horry County Adult Education.

Demonstrated Effectiveness

Q. What is demonstrated effectiveness?

A. For an organization to be eligible to apply for a subgrant under AEFLA and be considered for funding, the organization must be able to demonstrate effectiveness in providing adult education and literacy activities. To show demonstrated effectiveness, applicants must provide data on performance records and participant outcomes. Once the OAE has evaluated each application’s data on demonstrated effectiveness, it will advance only those applications that passed the eligibility screening for review and consideration for funding. Applications that did not include demonstrated effectiveness documentation cannot be further considered for funding. Please refer to the full definition of demonstrated effectiveness on page 53 of the RFP.

Applicants must provide a response to demonstrated effectiveness on the AEFLA Main Online application.

Q. What is past effectiveness?

A. Past effectiveness is the degree to which the eligible provider has been effective in the past, in improving the literacy of eligible individuals, to meet state-adjusted levels of performance for the primary indicators of performance described in [Section 116](#), especially with respect to eligible individuals who have low levels of literacy. In response to Consideration 3, applicants must provide data on performance records and participant outcomes that reviewers will use to score the applications. Please refer to the full definition of past effectiveness on page 58 of the RFP.

Applicants must provide a response to past effectiveness for each subgrant application.

Q. Are demonstrated effectiveness and past effectiveness the same?

A. Past effectiveness is not the same as demonstrated effectiveness. Past effectiveness is a consideration for awarding AEFLA funding. Demonstrated effectiveness is a requirement for an organization to be an eligible provider (i.e., eligible applicant) to receive AEFLA funds.

Q. Is the demonstrated effectiveness documentation for the main application the same as the past effectiveness chart for Consideration 3? Can the same template be used for past effectiveness and demonstrated effectiveness?

A. Instructions for the “WIOA Consideration 3: Past Effectiveness” chart are located on pages 104–107 of the RFP and can be used for demonstrated effectiveness and past effectiveness. However, Consideration 3 requires an additional narrative regarding past effectiveness.

Q. What are the dates to use for the Past Effectiveness Chart?

A. The following dates should be used July 1, 2017-June 30, 2024.

Online Application**Q. When is the final submission due?**

A. September 3, 2025, at 5:00 pm. The submission portal will close at this time and submissions will not be accepted.

Q. Is the 25mb for each attachment or is the 25mb for all attachments in the entire application?

A. The Main Application Online Form’s file limit is 25mb, and the Attachments Online Form is 25mb.

Q. Can you save the online application and go back to it later?

A. Yes. However, it is not a requirement to submit your application. Be sure to remember your password and securely save the hyperlink to the saved form. Staff of the SCDE do not have access to saved applications. A saved application is not a submitted application. -Please refer to page 38 of the RFP.

Q. Please discuss the required appendices.

A. There are required attachments for the AEFLA Main Application online form. Please refer to page 45 of the RFP for more detailed information. There are also program-specific attachments. Please refer to pages 47–48 of the RFP for more detailed information. The program-specific attachments are available

under the “Documents” section of the subgrant competition announcement linked to the Grants Opportunities page at www.ed.sc.gov.

Q. Will the most recent application submission be accepted? In other words, will previously submitted applications be discarded?

A. Yes, you may resubmit an application. The OAE will only consider the last complete submission by any given program.

Q. Will programs receive annual notification from the OAE, like in the past?

A. Grant Award Notifications (GANs) will be distributed annually. Continuation awards are contingent upon the subgrantee’s meeting all reporting requirements and demonstrating substantial progress toward meeting project objectives and use of all funds requested in the previous grant award period.

Q. The abstract asks for the amount of funding requested. Is this a projected amount? In the previous grant, there was a maximum that we could request.

A. Yes, it is a projected amount. Previously funded subgrantees may want to take into consideration previous funding through these subgrant opportunities. New applicants may submit a proposed budget. Award amounts will be determined per program based on the quality of applications received and total funding requested; awards may vary depending upon program size, population (number of anticipated enrollees), and number of subgrantees within the county service area. All applicants must understand that the OAE may negotiate budgets with subgrantees after the selection process is completed. Please refer to page 2-3 of the RFP.

Budget

Q. As a Community Based Organization (CBO), do we only include staffing of those supported ONLY by federal funds? Or, all staff supported within our budget?

A. All applicants, including CBOs, should paint a full picture by including all staff members in their application. On the Budget Summary and Budget Planning form, please indicate all funds related to staffing. List proposed federal funds in the first column and state and other funds in the respective columns.

Q. The total available funds for the Adult Education subgrant is \$40,000. If awarded a maximum grant, is that \$40,000 stretched over 5 years? Or could a program receive \$40,000 each year for 5 years? Or could a program write a \$40k grant for one year?

A. There will be approximately \$40,000 to be distributed amongst funded programs each year for the five-year grant cycle (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2030). Funds are dispersed according to the county census need. Under this RFP, applicants are not able to apply for subgrant funds for only 1 year.

General Questions

Q. On pages 103-104, it estimates the number of participants to be served for each county. Is this the number that should be served each year of the grant cycle or the total number that should be served within the grant cycle?

A. This represents a target number for each year of the grant cycle.

Q. How do I access the recordings of the Technical Assistance webinars?

A. Email adultegrants@ed.sc.gov with your request.

Q. Where do I find application instructions for the AEFLA subgrants?

A. Email adultegrants@ed.sc.gov with your request.

Q. I am part of an LEA applying for the Adult Education grants. I want to confirm that as an LEA I am not required to submit the Pre-Audit Questionnaire, a W-9, or an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement as documents included in the Main Application attachments. Is this correct?

A. Yes, that is correct.

Q. Who should I contact with RFP questions and concerns?

Adult Education Subgrant Contact:

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