



**Please support the request from Adult Education and Literacy Network to increase base funding for the State’s four AEL providers by \$1.5 million for FY 2024**

Vermont’s AEL students are often the most vulnerable and underserved of our communities. The majority of AEL students live in poverty, have a disability, identify as a person of color, and/or experience homelessness or unemployment. Many AEL students are parents and have school-age children and lack the technology, skills or resources to work or learn remotely.

Adult Education and Literacy services help people build the assets they need to move out of poverty successfully, as well as the confidence to continue to move toward success throughout their lives.

Adequately funding Vermont’s AEL providers is critical for our communities, our employers and our families. Ensuring that people get the skills they need will help them to attain jobs that will support their families, and at the same time, ensure that employers have workers who can work to their full potential. Please support the AELN funding request.

Sincerely,

ACT Bennington  
 Alchemist Foundation  
 Bennington Center for Restorative Justice  
 Bennington County Open Arms  
 Bennington County Regional Commission  
 Bennington Free Library  
 Bennington Housing Authority  
 BROC Community Action  
 Capstone Community Action  
 Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity  
 Community College of Vermont  
 Community College of Vermont  
 CVEDC  
 Ethiopian Community Development Council Vermont  
 Family Center of Washington County  
 Grace Initiative Global  
 Green Mountain United Way  
 HireAbility Vermont  
 Kaman Composites  
 Orleans County Restorative Justice Center



Partnerships for Literacy and Learning  
 Path at Stone Summit  
 Peter M. Goodrich Memorial Foundation  
 ReSOURCE A Nonprofit Community Enterprise Inc.  
 Rotary Club of Newport Vermont  
 Second Congregational Church, UCC, Bennington  
 Southwest Tech  
 Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union  
 Southwestern Vermont Chamber of Commerce  
 Spectrum Youth and Family Services  
 The Bank of Bennington  
 The Collaborative  
 The Janet S. Munt Family Room  
 The Learning Tree  
 United Way of Addison County  
 United Way of Lamoille County  
 VABIR  
 Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club



## Testimonials from Partner Organizations

*"After 6 years working with many adult learners, it is evident that funding is needed to help remove obstacles that prevent this population from being successful. From lack of internet access to skills and resources, funding for adult learners will allow many to escape the grips of poverty and provide a better life for themselves and their families."*

-Amanda Bates, Community College of Vermont, January 2023

*"Many clients we work with have attended Adult Basic Education courses and GED classes with AEL providers in Vermont. We have witnessed firsthand the strides and opportunities that come with attending and being a part of furthering education. The adult education opportunities truly enable us to fully support our families in every aspect in their lives. The education piece truly makes for a bright future."*

-Gweneth O. Schuyler, Family Center of Washington County, January 2023

*"CVABE is a critical educational resource for youth and young adults that many of our clients are engaged with. They offer approaches that support individual needs and at a pace that is realistic for each student. CVABE has also ensured that students have adequate tools and technology in place to be able to participate. A large percentage of our clients have completed their education through CVABE and most of these clients are low income. Programs like CVABE need to be able to attract and sustain quality educators to connect meaningfully with students, to help them to succeed academically and to help them become contributing members of our communities and workforce."*

-Nicole Bachand, Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club, January 2023

*"The Tutorial Center in Bennington, our regional AEL, has been a vital partner in numerous workforce development activities in our area."*

-William Colvin, Director, Bennington County Regional Commission, January 2023

*"As a community partner and serving many of the same clients in our community, OCRJC sees directly the positive impact adult education has on individuals, families and the community at large. Assisting people to learn, achieve their goals, build confidence and skills to become active and engaged community citizens. Adult education is often a critical step in achieving a healthy and participatory community."*

-Lyn Gatt, Executive Director, Orleans County restorative Justice Center, February 2023

*"Vermont Adult Learning is a wonderful partner for CVOEO and contributes so much to our communities. We rely on VAL to support our programming by taking young adults and returning adults and bringing them back into the workforce. It is a win for our organization, for the economy and for the person and family which VAL supports."*

-Paul Dragon, Executive Director, Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, January 2023

*"AEL is an amazing opportunity for Vermonters to achieve an excellent education in alternative ways that meet their learning needs and levels. The educators that provide this programming are dedicated and committed to helping every person receive the education they want and deserve. This programming really motivates students to continue their education past a GED or High School Diploma. They have the endorsement of our agency 100%."*

-Kimberly Phillips-Roderigue, Bennington Center for Restorative Justice, January 2023

*"Since refugees arrived in Southern Vermont on Jan 3, 2022, Vermont Adult Learning continues to be a critical partner. They have provided English language support to all arriving adult refugees in Brattleboro. It is a privilege to have VAL as our partner and continued support to them will positively impact the lives of refugees."*

-Joe Wiah, Director, Ethiopian Community Development Council Vermont (ECDCVT), January 2023

*"The Peter M. Goodrich Memorial Foundation has supported the education of more than two dozen refugees for nearly two decades. The greatest challenge they all face is acquisition of English language fluency. It is their ticket to self sufficiency and full development of their personalities and potential. Adult Education and Literacy Network has been and will continue to be a major player in the successful integration into our culture for many of them."*

-To Donald Goodrich, Peter M. Goodrich Memorial Foundation, January 2023