



February 9, 2022

Hal Cohen, Executive Director, Vermont Adult Learning
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I'm Hal Cohen. I live in Middlesex. I'm Executive Director of Vermont Adult Learning which serves seven of Vermont's fourteen counties—Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Addison, Rutland, Windsor and Windham.

I'm here to ask you to support the statewide Adult Education and Literacy provider network with an additional appropriation of \$1.4 million in FY2023 to address historic underfunding and ongoing expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Adult Education and Literacy providers serve adults in Vermont who need help with basic literacy skills in reading, writing and/or math and acquiring a high school credential. This opens up opportunities for students, including better jobs and having a better family life.

Our students are at the center of our work, and we know that success looks different for every student, which is why our programming and activities are specifically tailored to each student's unique needs and goals.

Christina, a single mother who earned her high school diploma from us at age thirty-two, is now a registered nurse in Rutland. Michael, a father from southern Vermont, earned his diploma last month and started a new job as a security guard as he prepares to apply to the Vermont Police Academy. Sarah, a successful entrepreneur, earned a diploma when she stepped away from her public high school's social group to protect her sobriety.

Windham County
999 Putney Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301
802-257-9449

Chittenden County
77 College Street
Burlington, VT 05401
802-846-7245

Rutland County
16 Evelyn St., Ste. 101
Rutland, VT 05701
802-775-0617

Windsor County
225 Maple Street, Unit 6
White River Jct., VT 05001
802-299-2469

**Addison County /
Central Office**
99 Maple Street, #18
Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4392

Franklin & Grand Isle
5 Lemnah Dr., Ste. 5
St. Albans, VT 05478
802-524-9233

Windsor County
100 River St., Ste. 102
Springfield, VT 05156
802-546-0880

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 539
Waitsfield, VT 05673
802-560-4057

Vermont's AEL students are often the most vulnerable and underserved of our communities. The majority of our students live in poverty, have a disability, and/or experience homelessness or unemployment. Over 30% of our students identify as a person of color. Almost all of our students lack a high school credential.

Our services in education and workforce development changes people's lives. An educated workforce is an employed workforce. A high school credential is essential to earning a livable wage and our graduates often remain in Vermont, forming the backbone of our local economies and communities.

Please support the statewide Adult Education and Literacy provider network with an additional appropriation of \$1.4 million in FY2023. Thank you.