

Sarah Roy

My name is Sarah Roy. I live in Newport, Vermont, and I work for Northeast Kingdom Learning Services.

I am asking for your support of the statewide Adult Education and Literacy provider network with an additional appropriation of \$1.4million in FY2023 to address both historic underfunding and ongoing expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Adult Education and Literacy providers serve Vermonters who need help with basic skills in order to access other educational or career opportunities. Each student comes to us with different experiences, priorities, needs, and goals. It's our privilege to help them problem solve through the challenges they face, and walk beside them on their journey towards the lives they want to have.

One graduate of our High School Completion Program sought our help because she could not progress further in her career without attaining her high school diploma. She had worked in a healthcare office for over twenty years, but was not considered for advancement because she was lacking this credential. This Vermonter had raised a family, owned a home, and been successful in so many of aspects of her life. Although she positively contributed to her local community in countless ways, this barrier held her back. While continuing to work fulltime, she met in the evenings for two years to improve her reading, language and math literacy skills. Together, we collaborated to create an individualized learning plan, including several online courses in areas that would build her resume. When she earned her diploma, she also earned a promotion at work. This one obstacle, that had held her back from her goals for so long, was finally gone. She not only increased her earning capacity, she gained confidence and pride in herself. This opportunity changed the quality of her life; she was able to build assets she will take with her in everything she does.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request for additional funds to support our Adult Education & Literacy provider network. Your support will allow for these programs to continue to assist Vermonters to improve their lives by giving them the educational tools they need to be successful.