

First Mondays

Monthly Notes for Virginia's Adult Education Providers

January 4, 2016

Calendar

VLF Conference

March 3-4

Richmond

Data Summit

March 14

Charlottesville

Regional Program Managers and IEL/Civics Program Managers Meeting

March 15-16

Charlottesville

IEL Civics Symposium

April 28-29

Richmond

A Budget Increase for Adult Education

I can't remember starting off a new year of *First Mondays* with a better lead article title. In late December, the House and Senate released their bipartisan FY 2016 omnibus appropriations package. There is good news for adult education in the bill: Title II received "a \$13 million increase for Adult Education/Literacy grants to states, offering a two percent increase in funds for states to help the 36 million Americans with low basic skills strengthen their English language and educational levels to take advantage of emerging economic opportunities, support the educational and skill achievement of parents and family members, improve health and financial literacy, and participate fully in society." Two links with more information can be found at the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) [website](#) and the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education (NCSDAE) [website](#).

Webinar Reminders

The Office of Adult Education and Literacy and The Virginia Community College System will host a joint webinar on Friday, January 29th from 10:00-11:30 a.m. The focus of this webinar will be on strengthening career pathways programs for adults and out-of-school youth. Please forward this information to all local program managers who, along with regional program managers, are strongly encouraged to attend. Information about accessing the webinar will be available soon.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) Office will host a webinar on Thursday, February 18 at 1:00 p.m. The focus of this webinar will be how programs can access additional funds to serve SNAP recipients through SNAP E&T reimbursements. This webinar is for anyone interested in learning more about SNAP E&T reimbursements, not just for programs that are currently involved with the Virginia SNAP E&T project. Details about registration will follow.

GED® Stats

2015

GED accounts - 18,935

Test takers - 6,092

Completers - 2,997

Passers - 2,285

State pass rate - 76%

National pass rate - 67%

Money Matters

Race to GED & PluggedInVA funds will be posted to OMEGA this month.

Second quarter reimbursement requests, local match, program income, and State Lead Coordinating Agency (SLCA) expenditure reports are due January 18, 2016.

And remember, the last day for technology budget transfers is February 3.

First Mondays cont.

January 2016

R U College and Career Ready

R U College and Career Ready is a publication of the Virginia Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education (CTE) in partnership with Virginia Business Publications. Rachel Morrissey shared this resource with regional specialists at the VAACE Conference this past October. While the magazine is designed for and distributed to high school students, it contains many helpful articles on college and career readiness for all learners. The new 2016 edition was just released and can be found [here](#).

New Grant Opportunity

To help parents obtain affordable, quality child care necessary to pursue education and training opportunities leading to good jobs in growing industries, the U.S. Department of Labor has announced the availability of up to \$25 million in grants through the [Strengthening Working Families Initiative](#). "The grants will support public-private partnerships that bridge gaps between local workforce development and child-care systems. In addition to addressing these systemic barriers, funded programs will enable parents to access training and customized supportive services needed for IT, health care, advanced manufacturing jobs, and others."

We are all very familiar with the barrier to education that affordable child care can present to our adult learners. This is a rare opportunity to reach out to other agencies in your regions and form partnerships to improve access to education and training and quality, affordable child care for parents looking to expand their skills. To read more about this grant click [here](#).

LINCS Career Pathway Resource

Please take a moment to see the Tools for Building Employer-Educator Partnerships by clicking [here](#). The website is designed to introduce employers and educators to the value of partnering and disseminate evidence-based tools that contain academic and practical solutions for building partnerships, sustaining collaborations, and creating career pathways. This resource highlights the Prince William Adult Education and PluggedInVA programs' successes.