



Date: October 3, 2022

Source of Report: LD 1733, PL 2021, Chapter 483, To Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds

Topic: Long-term economic growth and infrastructure revitalization

Context

LD 1733, part LL directs the Department of Education to provide one-time funding for infrastructure, equipment, and competitive grants for career and technical education programs with a focus on career development and training to meet the workforce needs of workers, students, employers, and industries, and as required to support state economic growth strategies. Part LL-5 of the Resolve directs the Department of Education to deliver a report on the analysis and subsequent findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. This report must include information regarding the services, training and referrals provided by career advancement and navigation specialists employed by school administrative units; aggregate data regarding pilot program participants, participating employers, employment opportunities and employment placements of pilot program participants; and an evaluation of programs and services most effective in carrying out the purposes of the pilot program.

Actions

In the spring of 2022, Adult Education HUBS (program consortiums that cover regions within the state) in Kennebec County, York County, Androscoggin and Oxford County and Lincoln, Knox, Sagadahoc, Waldo County were each tasked with hiring a Career Advancement and Navigation Specialist. The four Career Advancement and Navigation Specialists were to be hired by one local adult education program as the fiscal agent/district of record. At the time of this report, three of the four Career Advancement and Navigation Specialists have been hired and have begun working in the field during the month of September. Due to a lack of applicants, the Career Advancement and Navigation Specialist in Kennebec County is in the process of re-advertising the position for that region. The breakdown of where these navigators are located can be seen in the chart below.

Since the Career Advancement and Navigation Specialists have either just been hired or are in the process of being hired, we do not have sufficient data to share regarding those being served.

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Table 1: Career Advancement and Navigation Specialists - Funding total: \$592,319

| | Location | Contact/Fiscal Agent | Navigator Hired |
|---|-----------------|---|------------------------|
| 1 | Kennebec County | Mid-Maine Adult and Community Education | Re-advertising |

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|----------------|
| 2 | York County | Sanford Community Adult Education | August 2022 |
| 3 | Androscoggin & Oxford | Lewiston Adult and Community Education | August 2022 |
| 4 | Lincoln, Knox, Sagadahoc, Waldo | Five Towns CSD Adult & Community Education | September 2022 |

In addition to the Career Advancement and Navigation Specialists, adult education programs were tasked with providing one-time funding for competitive grant funds for higher education institutions and adult education programs to meet the needs of workers and students, as well as employers and industries, especially those most affected by COVID-19, and as required to support state economic growth strategies. In order to accomplish this goal, adult education HUBS have been collaborating with the seven community colleges in the State of Maine to acquire College and Career Success Coordinators in a joint effort to increase educational access in the form of advising, academic support, and learning opportunities to students who are not ready or are not eligible for workforce training or credit-bearing programming. The College and Career Success Coordinators will be hired by local adult education programs but will spend most of their time on their local community college campus. This will provide students with immediate access to an adult education professional when a referral is made.

At this time, four of the seven College and Career Success Coordinators have been hired. The plan is to have all Coordinators hired by the end of October (see chart below). As with the Navigators, since the College and Career Success Coordinators have either just been hired or are in the process of being hired, we do not have sufficient data to share regarding those being served.

Table 2: Status of College and Career Success Coordinators

| | College | Contact | MOU/Space at College | CCSC Hired |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Central Maine Community College- Auburn | Turner Adult and Community Education | Waiting on signatures | Not yet advertised |
| 2 | Eastern Maine Community College - Bangor | Bangor Adult and Community Education | x | September |
| 3 | Kennebec Valley Community College- Fairfield | MSAD 54 Adult and Community Education | x | August |
| 4 | Northern ME CC- Presque Isle | LeRae Kinney | x | September/October start date |
| 5 | Southern Maine Community College- South Portland | Portland Adult Education | x | August |
| 6 | Wash County CC - Calais | Washington County Adult and | X | October |

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|---|------------------|
| | | Community Education | | |
| 7 | York County CC - Wells | Kittery Adult Education | x | Being advertised |

Recommendations

Now that navigators and coordinators are in the final stages of being hired and trained, the next logical steps would be for the Department of Education to allow time for those in the positions to acclimate to the communities they will be serving and then begin reporting out data specific to the areas below:

1. Identified programs will report out the following data once all Navigators and Success Coordinators have been in the field for a full quarter (reporting will be quarterly):
 - Numbers of learners contacted by Navigator/Success Coordinator
 - Number of those who created career plan/academic plan
 - Number of informational meetings held
 - Number of employer contacts
 - Number of people referred to agencies for services
 - Referrals for what purpose
 - Follow up from referral
 - Number of inter-agency contacts regarding program
 - Number of people entering employment
 - Number of people referred to adult education providers for services (from the community college system)
 - Number of people co-enrolled in community college and receiving adult education services

The collected aggregate data will inform stakeholders if the programs are meeting the identified objective of meeting potential students where they are in their communities and within the community college system.

Contact:

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