

**From:** [Raquel Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
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Good Day,

My name is Raquel Johnson. I'm State Advocate for Adult Education Fellow for the Coalition for Adult Basic Education. I'm also the Lead Teacher/ELL Instructor for the ACCEL Program at Western Nevada College in Carson City. With respect to funding for adult programs, I want to ensure you understand what is currently happening and so that you know how to continue to support adult education programs and students into the future.

In addition to the funding locally, adult education funding must be increased if programs are going to continue to overcome the numerous challenges that accompany the COVID-19 pandemic and the forthcoming recovery period. Congress should fund adult education in the FY2022 appropriations bill at least at \$810 million and provide \$1 billion in emergency funding for adult education in the next COVID-19 relief package, including any infrastructure legislation.

To do our part, the ACCEL program at WNC offers English Language Learning Classes, High School Equivalency preparation, Basic Academic Skills Classes, English Language Transition classes, Career Pathways, Integrated Education and Training, and Workforce Training classes in a variety of settings and locations in the five-county Western Nevada College service area.

ACCEL's mission is to engage learners in educational opportunities that will help them to meet their personal, life, and career goals in an accelerated way.

Some facts for consideration:

- Nationally: There are more than 2,200 providers funded under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, also known as Title II of the **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act** (WIOA). These providers serve roughly 1.5 million American adults each year via adult basic education, high school equivalency, and English language classes, yet there are many more in need of services.

- In Nevada: I was surprised to learn that in programs such as ours, per adult learner, programs receive less than 1/10th of federal funding compared to the per pupil funding received by elementary education. From 2017 data, we know approximately 8% of our working age Nevadans are without a high school diploma and unemployed. The % is probably much higher now due to COVID dynamics.

Thank you for being part of passing COVID19 relief packages. We are grateful for the support adult education has received over the years from our policymakers and we need to plan for what happens next. Adult learners are likely to be especially vulnerable to the impacts of COVID19 and are in need of upskilling/re-training. For every dollar spent on AE, we estimate a return of \$60 to the community in increased income, property taxes, savings on public benefits and legal expenses. Thank you!

Best,  
Raquel Johnson  
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**Raquel Johnson**

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