



# Adult Education Division

The Adult Education Division oversees the provision of targeted educational services outlined by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), Title II of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Adult Education and literacy programs are recognized nationwide as both an important public service and a robust economic catalyst. During program year 2019-2020, onset year of the COVID pandemic, the Adult Education Division served a total of 9,520 students. These efforts were supported by \$6,235,900 in state funding and \$4,153,357 in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Education. Conservatively calculated without including public assistance savings or increased tax revenue, ***New Mexico received a 371% return on its investment.***

**836 students unemployed at program entry entered the workforce and generated \$11,487,659 in wages after the second quarter of exiting the program.** Source: Department Workforce Solutions and LACES

**655 HSE graduates generated an estimated \$6,130,800 in additional earnings. (\$180.00 additional weekly earnings x 655 graduates x 52 weeks)** Source: Bureau of Labor, U.S. Department of Labor, and LACES

**1,463 students transitioned to postsecondary education or training with increased earnings of \$5,553,548 (\$73.00 additional weekly earnings x 1,463 transitioning x 52 weeks)** Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, and eDEAR.

**$\$11,487,659 + \$6,130,800 + \$5,553,548 = \$23,172,007$  (PY19-20 RETURN) /  $\$6,235,900$  (PY 19-20 State INVESTMENT) =**

## 371% ROI

### ADULT EDUCATION HELPS NEW MEXICANS

- Strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy skills
- Earn a High School Equivalency Credential (HSE)
- Learn English as a Second Language (ESL) + civics
- Strengthen workplace readiness and “soft skills”
- Participate in workplace and apprenticeship training
- Transition to postsecondary education
- Develop sustainable career pathways
- Help children succeed, in and out of school
- Break generational cycles of low literacy and poverty

The Adult Education system includes 24 subgrantee program providers across New Mexico offering free instruction and training to eligible adults, including dislocated workers and out-of-school youth ages 16-18. Most of these providers are postsecondary institutions. All adult education program participants are in need of core skill development; most lack a high school diploma or equivalent and have multiple barriers to supporting themselves and their families. For adults with low literacy levels, securing meaningful employment with family-sustaining wages, effectively participating in their children’s education, accessing community services, and informed civic engagement can be a challenge. In collaboration with core partners, the Adult Education Division works to address these needs for the benefit of all New Mexicans.