

Potential Funding Sources for Boston and Massachusetts Workplace ABE/ESOL Programs

Program Name	Funder	Description	Availability	Amount	Target Population	Applicant
State Funding						
Learn at Work Program	Commonwealth Corporation	New dedicated fund for workplace ABE/ESOL. Combines funds from EOLWD and DESE.	Awards made 3/10; future funds subject to appropriation	Up to \$75 K for 3 years	Incumbent workers as part of worksite or consortium	Employer, CBO, ed provider, higher ed, others—flexible
Workforce Training Fund (WTF)	WTF/DCS	Incumbent worker training grants; includes ABE/ESOL	Quarterly	\$25k planning grants plus larger (\$250k) implementation grants	Incumbent workers in companies that pay into state unemployment fund	Employer
Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund (WCTF)	Commonwealth Corporation	Large multi-employer sectoral career ladder projects	FY'11 funding uncertain at this point	Up to \$250,000	Can include workplace ABE/ESOL Incumbent workers; can backfill with new hires.	Employer consortium
Workplace Ed/Adult and Community Learning Services	MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education	Workplace ed grants that are focused on worker skills gains	Currently replaced by Learn @ Work	\$5k planning grants/\$50k implementation grants (up to 3 years)	Workers in need of skills improvement (ESOL or ABE)	Ed. provider, union, and/or business
Extended Care Career Ladders Initiative (ECCLI)	Commonwealth Corporation	Career Ladders project for long-term care workers (nursing aides and home health aides)	Continuation grants only at this point	Up to \$500,000, but often less; up to 3 years	Incumbent long-term care workers; can include ABE/ESOL	Employer consortium

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Federal Funding						
U.S. DOL ETA	Dept. of Labor Employment and Training Administration	Usually large sectoral projects that can include a basic skills/workplace ed component	Infrequent; announced in Fed. Register	Large—varies	For specific populations (e.g., youth, low-income, leaving welfare, etc.)	Ed provider and/or job training CBO; needs employer partners
U.S. DOE OVAE	Office of Vocational and Adult Education	Sometimes funds workplace ed initiatives	Infrequent; announced in Fed. Register	Large—varies	For specific populations (e.g., older youth)	Ed provider and/or job training CBO
Public-Private Boston Partnerships						
English for New Bostonians	City of Boston and Private Funders	(ESOL) grants to community, faith- and union-based programs. Also provide training/and t.a. to employer ESOL partnerships.	Next open funding round Spring 2011	Grant range \$20-50,000	LEP immigrants in Boston in need of ESOL	ESOL providers
SkillWorks	Public-private (City of Boston and State) funder consortium housed at The Boston Foundation	Large sectoral projects that may include ABE/ESOL for incumbent workers	Not currently; 3-year grants	\$50K planning grants; large (\$1M for 3 years grants afterward; currently funding green careers	Includes workplace ABE/ESOL Incumbent workers; can backfill with new hires.	Multi-employer partnerships with CBO and ABE partners
Labor Unions & Joint Funds						
Unions and Labor-Management Funds	Unions and employers contribute. Includes 1199SEIU (health care), SEIU 615 (janitors), UNITE HERE Local 26 (hotel & restaurant workers), etc.	Some do own ed programs in-house but others may contract with outside ed providers	N/A	Sector- or employer-specific depending on workplaces of union members	Mostly incumbent workers; sometimes new hires when additional funding is available.	Can be union representing workers at one or more employer or worksite

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Private Funding						
Employer-supported slots	Employer	Employer purchases or reimburses costs for incumbent workers in a program. Works best for small to mid-size employer without critical mass of students for an on-site program	Depends on employer interest/funds.	Varies	Employer's own workers	N/A
Employer-supported program	Employer	On-site ABE/ESOL program for own workers; or can be part of a career ladders program	Depends on employer interest/funds.	Varies	Employer's own workers	N/A
Tuition Reimbursement	Employer	Employer policy permits employee to be reimbursed for ABE/ESOL class.	Varies	Covers costs	Incumbent workers	Incumbent workers
Private Philanthropy	Private foundations	Grants to programs	Varies	Varies	Varies	Typically community-based provider