



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY

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NIFL'S *EQUIPPED FOR THE FUTURE* BEGINS NEXT PHASE OF SYSTEM REFORM

The National Institute for Literacy has awarded two new grants to carry out the next phase of the *EQUIPPED FOR THE FUTURE* system reform initiative. Each of the two grantees will use a broad consensus-building process to identify what adults need to know and be able to do, now and in the future, to fulfill the responsibilities associated with one of two adult roles — worker and citizen.

The new grantees, building on work done in the first two phases of EFF, will bring as many perspectives as possible into the process of creating a framework for content standards. Their goal is to develop technically sound standards and performance indicators that demystify the route to success for adult learners, make clear to policymakers and the general public what the objective of adult education is, and serve as a guide to the development of curriculum and assessment tools.

The EFF grantees for 1996-97 are as follows:

- Focusing on the role of worker, the State of Maine will lead partner states North Carolina, Virginia, Vermont, and Ohio. Each partner state will focus on a different industry sector, bringing together key public and private sector stakeholders, and piloting the standards in local workplace literacy sites. Organizational partners are the Adult Numeracy Practitioners Network and key groups involved in creating a national workforce development system, including the National Skill Standards Board, the National Retail Federation, the National Employer Leadership Council, and the National Center on Education and the Economy. The partnership's work will build on U.S. Department of Labor initiatives, including: O*NET, SCANS, and National Job Analysis Survey.
- Focusing on the role of citizen, the Center for Literacy Studies at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville will lead a collaboration with the New England Literacy Resource Center and the Mayor's Commission on Literacy in Philadelphia. Partner states include New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and California. Participating national organizations with a stake in building civic participation include: the Center for Civic Education, the National Urban League, the League of Women Voters, the Southern Empowerment Project, Teachers of English as a Second Language, the Institute for the Study of Civic Values, and the Kettering Foundation.

The grantees will work closely with the NIFL and its partner federal agencies to develop a common framework that is firmly based on the perspectives of adult learners reported in *Equipped for the Future: A Customer Driven Vision for Adult Literacy and lifelong Learning* (1995). Both grantees will work under the guidance of the EFF National Policy Group and Performance Consulting Inc., the NIFL's technical assistance coordinator for this project. Each grantee also will have its own national advisory group and partnerships with states and national organizations.

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