

OCTAE Connection Flash Edition

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U.S. Department of Education Launches National Challenge to Advance Pre-apprenticeships and Expand Career Opportunities

In recognition of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, the [U.S. Department of Education](#) is proud to launch the [Rethink Adult Ed Challenge](#), a \$750,000 competition to advance pre-apprenticeships. The Department invites adult education providers to design programs that better prepare learners for apprenticeships and beyond.

The Rethink Adult Ed Challenge is helping [Adult Education and Family Literacy Act](#) (AEFLA)-funded adult education providers create innovative and high-quality pre-apprenticeship programs — in any industry, anywhere in the United States.

“Too many adult learners are missing out on opportunities for well-paid and rewarding careers, whether due to skills gaps, family responsibilities, financial situations, or a lack of awareness about apprenticeships in general,” said [Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education Scott Stump](#). “We’re addressing these hurdles by advancing innovative pre-apprenticeship programs that will benefit everyone — including adult learners, employers, and the communities around them.”

Submit a preliminary design to enter the challenge

AEFLA-funded community colleges, correctional facilities, libraries, community-based organizations, and other adult education providers interested in entering the challenge should [submit a preliminary program design](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET on Nov. 25, 2020. To learn more about the Rethink Adult Ed Challenge, [join the Oct. 15 virtual information session](#).

Access virtual resources and expert support

A review panel will select up to 100 finalists to join Stage 2, which runs from February to July 2021. Finalists will have access to a range of digital resources — such as case studies, activities, and webinars with subject matter experts — to help them refine their designs and develop more detailed program proposals. The grand-prize winner will be awarded \$250,000, and up to five runners-up will each receive at least \$100,000.

Learn more about the [Rethink Adult Ed Challenge](#). To receive updates, [subscribe to the challenge newsletter](#) and [follow Ed Prizes on Twitter](#).

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