

# ProLiteracy Policy Update

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## Funding for Adult Basic Education and Literacy

**The following is an update on action taken by the Senate Appropriations Committee on July 20 with regard to funding for adult basic education and literacy. The next step in the process will be floor consideration of the Senate and House appropriations bills, then reconciliation of any differences by conference committee. Both appropriations bills level fund adult education and literacy, but there is a significant difference in funding for Even Start. The House bill funds Even Start at \$70 million, but the Senate bill zeroes out the funding. There is also talk of an across-the-board percentage cut that will come at the end of the process, similar to what occurred last year.**

**This language comes from the Senate Appropriations Committee Report:**

The Committee recommends \$579,552,000 for adult education, the same amount as the comparable fiscal year 2006 funding level. The budget request includes \$579,552,000 for this purpose.

*Adult Education State Programs* - For adult education State programs, the Committee recommends \$563,975,000, the same amount as the comparable fiscal year 2006 funding level. The budget request includes \$563,975,000 for authorized activities. These funds are used by States for programs to enable economically disadvantaged adults to acquire basic literacy skills, to enable those who so desire to complete a secondary education, and to make available to adults the means to become more employable, productive, and responsible citizens.

The Committee recommendation continues the English literacy and civics education State grants set aside within the Adult Education State grant appropriation. Within the total, \$67,896,000 is available to help States or localities affected significantly by immigration and large limited-English populations to implement programs that help immigrants acquire English literacy skills, gain knowledge about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and develop skills that will enable them to navigate key institutions of American life.

*National Activities* - The Committee recommends \$9,005,000 for national leadership activities. The comparable funding level for fiscal year 2006 and the budget request both are \$9,005,000 for this purpose. Under this program, the Department supports applied research, development, dissemination, evaluation and program improvement activities to assist States in their efforts to improve the quality of adult education programs.

*National Institute for Literacy* - The Committee recommends \$6,572,000 for the National Institute for Literacy, authorized under section 242 of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. The comparable fiscal year 2006 funding level and the budget request both are \$6,572,000 for this purpose. The Institute provides leadership and coordination for national literacy efforts by conducting research and demonstrations on literacy, establishing and maintaining a national center for adult literacy and learning disabilities, and awarding fellowships to outstanding individuals in the field to conduct research activities under the auspices of the Institute.

The Committee does not recommend any funds for the *Even Start* program. The comparable funding level for fiscal year 2006 is \$99,000,000 and the budget request does not include any funds for this program. The Even Start program provides grants for family literacy programs

that serve disadvantaged families with children under 8 years of age and adults eligible for services under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. Programs combine early childhood education, adult literacy, and parenting education. Funding is provided to States based on their relative share of title I, part A funds and State use these resources to make competitive subgrants to partnerships comprised of local educational agencies and other organizations serving families in high-poverty areas.

**Thank you for all that you do to advocate for adult literacy in your community.**

**Marsha L. Tait  
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