

Legislative Update:

Federal Funding for 2022 and Broadband Program



HELPFUL NEWS FROM OUR FRIENDS AT PROLITERACY



FY2022 Appropriations

The President's 2022 detailed federal budget will be released on May 28. The appropriations process has begun in Congress; House and Senate Appropriations Committees will be developing their budgets over the next couple of months. It is important for adult educators to continue to contact their elected officials to request an increase in WIOA Title II (AEFLA) funding.

One effort being led by Senator Reed (D-RI), a longtime supporter of adult education, and Senator Young (R-IN) is a "Dear Colleague" letter to Congress asking for an increase in AEFLA funding to \$810 million for FY22, with the goal of doubling AEFLA funding in five years. These letters are more powerful with as many senators' signatures as possible. Please [contact your senator immediately](#) to ask for their support of this Dear Colleague request. Or, go to COABE's [online form](#) to send a request.

Adult Education in Infrastructure Bill

As previously communicated, the [American Jobs Plan](#) includes a request for \$48 billion in workforce development and worker protections, including a specific mention of WIOA adult literacy programs. Details on funding for WIOA Title II are not yet available; however, ProLiteracy encourages an investment of \$1 billion in line with previous requests by national leaders in support of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. Please contact your representatives and senators to urge support of \$1 billion in the American Jobs Plan for WIOA Title II. It is not yet clear whether this bill will be passed through the Budget Reconciliation process, but ProLiteracy will keep you informed as it progresses.

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBP), which we announced last month, has now started! This FCC program temporarily provides broadband service to families struggling to afford internet connection. It includes a discount of up to \$50 per month to eligible households, up to \$75 per month for eligible households on Tribal lands, and a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop, or tablet.

Please share this information with eligible students. The FCC has developed a web page with information about the [Emergency Broadband Benefit Program](#), including [how to apply](#) and a [toolkit page](#) with resources in English and 12 other languages for sharing information about the program.