



MESSAGE FROM MK

JULY 2004 – FUNDING

*An update from Mary Katherine Moen, State Director of Adult Education
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Each year at this time it is my responsibility to review applications for funding from the ABE/ESL programs throughout the state. The requests always exceed the amount available; there simply isn't enough funding for all the worthwhile programs.

Where does the funding come from? Nevada receives federal funding for the provision of education services to adults who lack basic skills. According to law, each State in the U.S. receives \$250,000. A formula is then used, based on census data, to determine additional monies. During 2003-2004 Nevada received \$4.1 million, a 30% increase over the previous year, reflecting (finally) the population growth evidenced by the 2000 Census.

Five percent of the federal funds is set aside for statewide administration. 12.5% is used for staff development and activities that support all of the instructional programs. The remaining funds are granted on a competitive basis to ABE/ESL and English Literacy/Civics instructional programs throughout the state. Approximately \$400,000 in state funding is also distributed to these programs.

Nevada has traditionally granted funding on the basis of requests, number of students served, cost per student, and successful outcomes in the previous year. Recent efforts to make the funding more equitably reflect the demographics created by population growth have resulted in increased allocations to programs in Las Vegas. A funding formula is currently being developed for 2005-2006 that will more adequately reflect this growth and will incorporate performance benchmarks into the allocation process.

Current programs are vital, healthy entities with good student outcomes. It is most difficult not to be able to fund each one according to need. The inability to fully fund these programs probably means that not all who desire these educational services will be able to receive them. I take heart, however, in the dedication, creativity, and hard work of all those who do so much good, with so little, for so many students.