



Federal Resources for a Family Learning System

October 24, 2023

Carol Clymer
Goodling Institute

Tony Peyton
NCFL

Conference.FamiliesLearning.org

Goodling Institute
for Research in Family Literacy

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CONFERENCE
2023

Omaha, NE

#NCFL23

- Welcome and Introductions
- Importance of Family Literacy and the Family Learning System
- Funding and Sustaining the Work
 - Examples of Using AEFLA Funding
 - Examples of Using ESEA Funding
- Group Activity
- Tips and Resources

- Introduce yourself to the person next to you.
- Talk about why you came to this session and what you would like to learn.

Federal Definition of Family Literacy

Family literacy is designed to “integrate early childhood education, adult literacy (adult basic and secondary-level education and instruction for English Language learners), parenting education, and interactive parent and child literacy activities for low-income families” (U.S. Department of Education, 2014)

Family literacy is often designed to integrate these four key components:

- Adult education or English language learning for adult learners
- Early childhood & school-age education
- Interactive parent-child literacy activities (also known as PACT[®])
- Parent education

Value and Benefits of Family Literacy

- Focuses on families to support literacy, education, and language development
- Focuses on the whole family
- Helps adults work on their own educational growth while also:
 - Learning about the development of their children,
 - Connecting to schools and teachers, and
 - Engaging in literacy activities with their children to support learning and development.

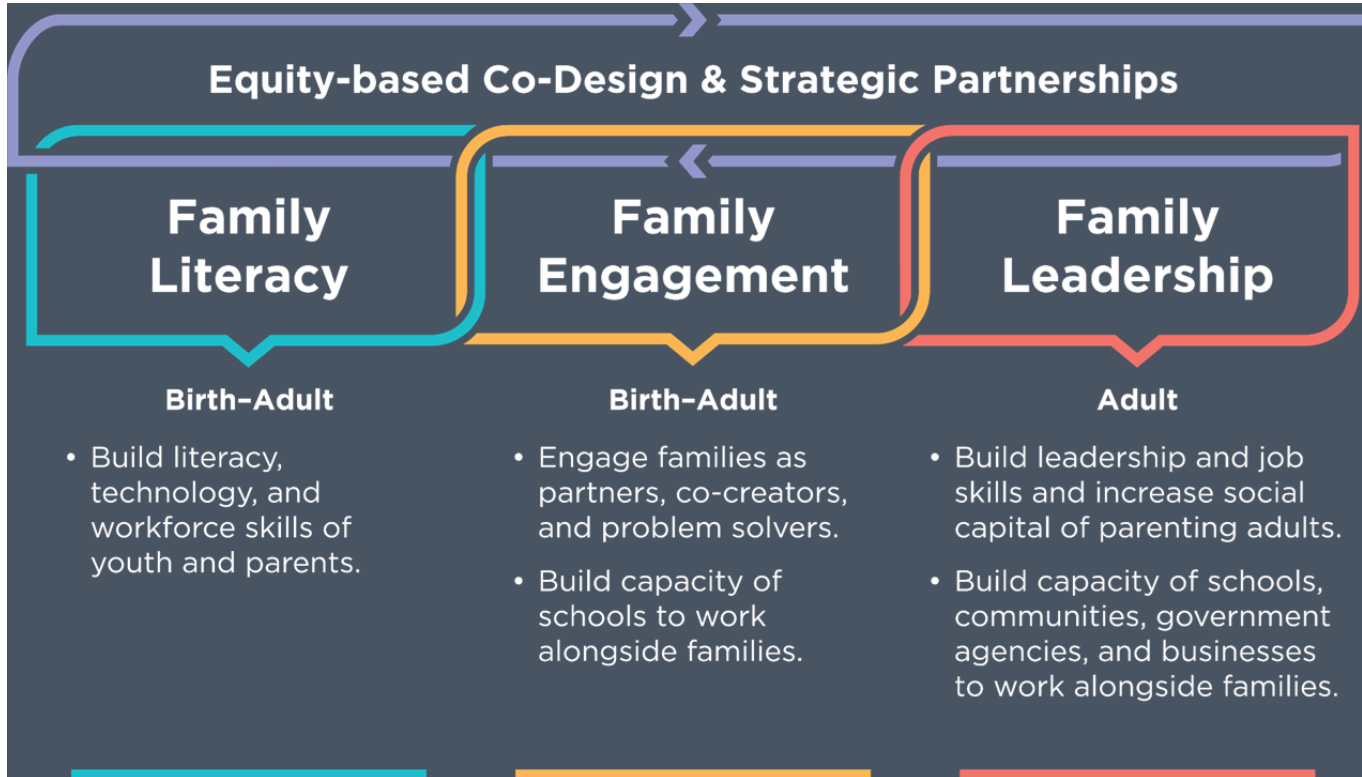
NCFL Mission and 60x30 Vision



Mission: NCFL works to eradicate poverty through education solutions for families.

Vision: By 2030, coordinated and aligned family learning systems are established in 60 communities, built with and for families, to increase education and economic outcomes, creating more equitable communities.

Family Learning System



Funding and Sustaining the Work

How is your family literacy program or family engagement work funded?

- Many public funding sources, but you have to find them
- Federal funds are distributed in a variety of ways, including formula grants to states and competitive discretionary grants
- States and districts often have some flexibility in how funds are used, so find out what is happening in your state or community and learn how funds are being used
- Find partners who are willing to apply when appropriate

What WIOA Says About Family Literacy

The term “**family literacy activities**” means activities that are of **sufficient intensity and quality**, to make sustainable improvements in the economic prospects for a family and that better **enable parents or family members to support their children’s learning needs**, and that **integrate all of the following activities**:

(A) Parent or family adult education and literacy activities that lead to readiness for postsecondary education or training, career advancement, and economic self-sufficiency.

(B) Interactive literacy activities between parents or family members and their children.

(C) Training for parents or family members regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children.

(D) An age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.

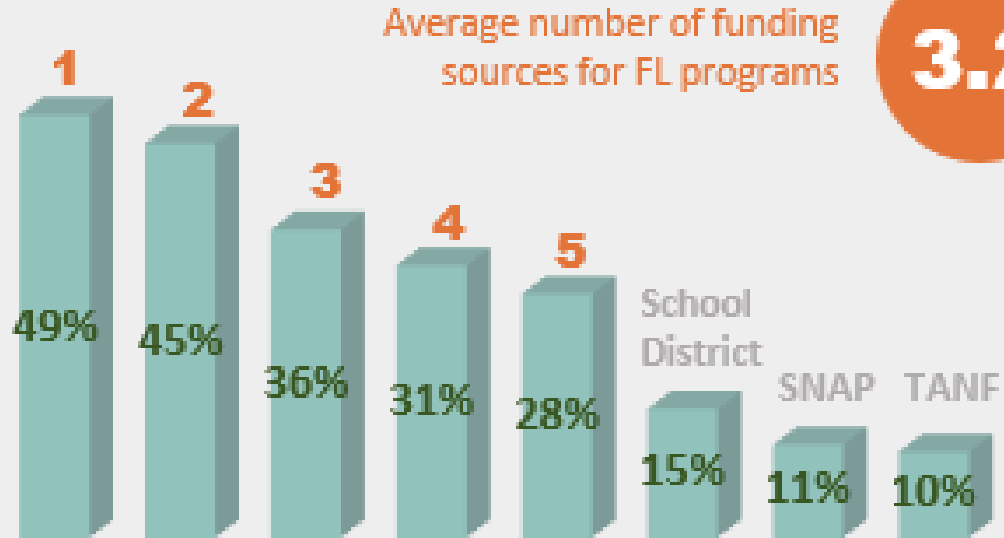
What WIOA Says About Family Literacy

In providing family literacy activities under this title, an eligible provider shall attempt to coordinate with programs and services that are not assisted under this title prior to using funds for adult education and literacy activities under this title for activities other than activities for eligible individuals.

Types of Funding Most Often Used

Funding sources mostly used

1. WIOA Title II
2. State funding
3. Fundraising
4. Private foundation fund
5. Local fund



Other funding sources:

- Community Services Block Grants (7%)
- Family and Child Education (FACE) (6%)

- Family Literacy identified as a 1 of 8 priority funding areas for AEFLA
- Specific RFP for family literacy
- 4 component model
- Up to \$50,000 of AEFLA funds for each program during the grant cycle
- Minimum of 20% matching requirement (can use state, local and other non-federal sources for adult education programs, services, and activities)
- State funds often used [Sec. 10-71. State Grants for adult education programs](#) as each community gets these funds for adult education services

- Grantees encouraged to partner with agencies (e.g., Family Resource Centers)
- In FY23, 23 family literacy grants awarded (\$1,150,000)
- In FY 24, 22 family literacy grants awarded (\$1,100,000)
- Required attendance at FL meetings/Friday Café
- Website: <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Services/Adult-Education>

Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Adult Education



- State funds, Act 143 (legislative mandate requires at least 25% of the funds be used for family literacy)
- 14 programs were funded in 2023 for a total of \$ 2,928,940.00
- 4-component model required
- Required PD related to PA family engagement framework
- <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/adultliteracy/aerfp.shtml>

South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Adult Education



- RFP issued specifically for family literacy programs
- 4 component model
- \$32,333 of AEFLA funding is available per program
- 15 programs funded
- Partners: Local school districts, First Steps to School Readiness, Head Start/Early Head Start, Public Private Partnerships (partner affiliates)
- Caregivers set goals HSE, PE, ESL, Career
- <https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/adult-education/family-literacy/>

South Carolina: Family Literacy Professional Development and Curricula



Professional Development

- New Staff Orientation and Refresher (Sept./Oct)
- Fall Training Institute (Oct/Nov)
- Spring Training Institute (March/April)
- Site visits (as needed and routine)
- Individualized program assistance (as needed and routine)
- Participation in trainings offered by partners

Curricula

- Triple P
- Parents As Teachers
- Teaching Strategies
- Practical Parent Education
- Program Selections (must be research based)

- **2021-2022:** year-long planning grant (\$12,500 for 6 programs; 1 program has been running for 20+ years)
 - Monthly PLC meetings
 - NCFL training on 4 components
- **2022-2023:** \$10,000 for 5 programs; 2 planning programs
 - Monthly PLC meeting
 - Targeted support and coaching
- **2023-24:** all programs using AEFLA funding; 6 programs are running, 2 planning
- <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/k-12-standards-instruction/english-reading-literacy/literacy/literacy-resources-for-families-and-communities>

Elementary & Secondary Education Act

- Last reauthorization: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015
- Numerous programs in ESSA support family literacy and family engagement, including:
 - Title I, Part A
 - Title III, ELA Programs
 - Title II, Comprehensive Literacy State Development
 - Title II, Innovative Approaches to Literacy
 - 21st Century Community Learning Centers
 - Full-Service Community Schools
 - Statewide Family Engagement Centers

ESSA – Title I, Part A Family Literacy/Family Engagement



Examples

- Lincoln Public Schools (NE)
- Cartwright Public Schools (Phoenix, AZ)
 - 12 school family literacy expansion last school year.

Review your state's Title I, Part A Guidance:

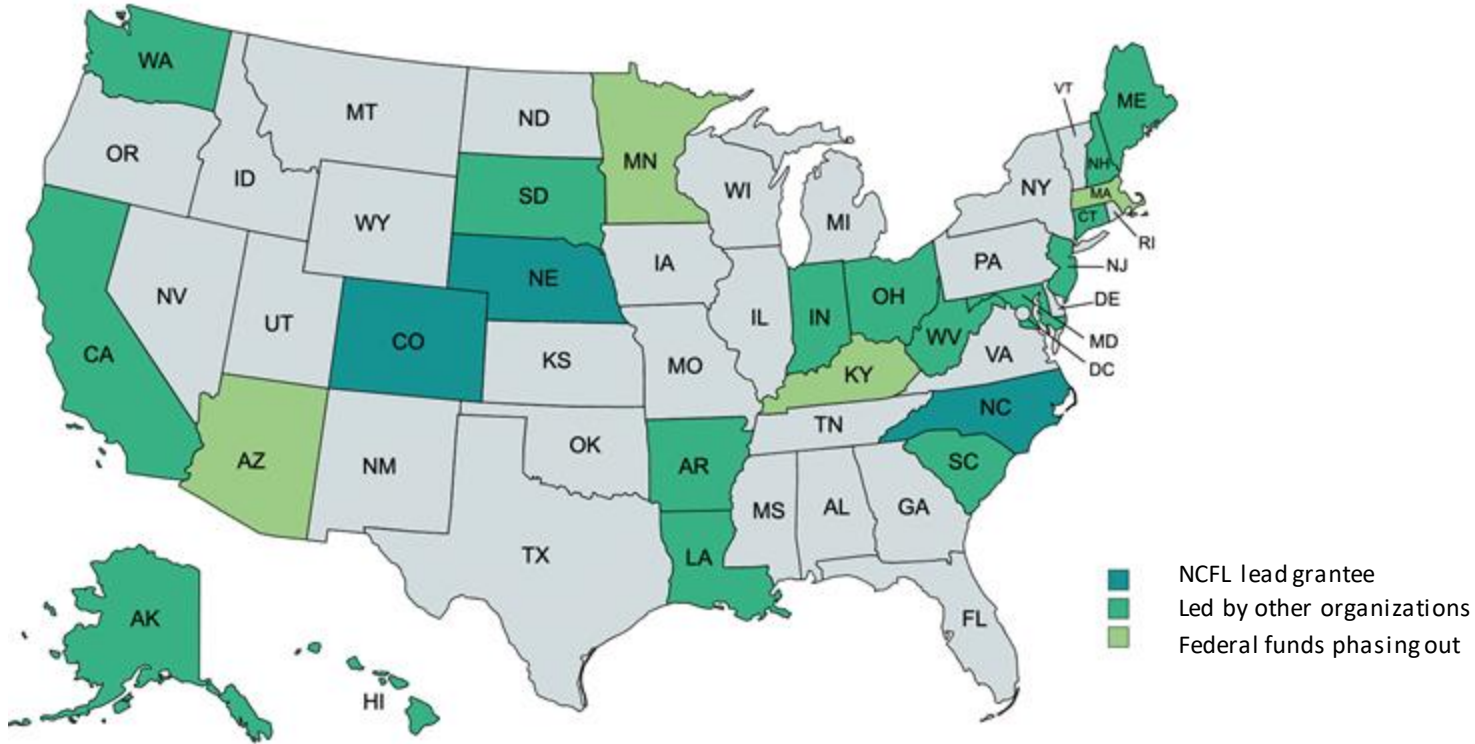
- NE, AZ, AK, OH, CT, UT, OR, AK, just to name a few.

Statewide Family Engagement Centers

Authorized as Title IV Part E of ESSA

- Grant to statewide organizations to
 - (1) carry out programs that promote parent and family engagement in education, or
 - (2) provide comprehensive training and technical assistance to SEAs, LEAs, schools, and organizations that support partnerships between families and schools
- Funded via annual appropriations, currently funded at \$20M
- New awards made in 2022 and just last month

Current SFEC Grants



Authorized as Title IV Part F of ESSA

FSCS provide comprehensive academic, social, and health services for students, students' family members, and community members that will result in improved educational outcomes for children.

- One of the 4 required FSCS pillars is Active Family and Community Engagement
- Funding doubled in FY 2023 to \$150 million
- Grant competition currently in process

Department of Education

- Higher Education Act: Federal Work-Study Program
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)

Department of Health and Human Services

- Community Services Block Grant Act
- Head Start
- Preschool Development Grants

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Program

Partnerships are essential!

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Sharing information and/or resources (e.g., a library has a book drive and donates books to families)

Networking

Planning events together (e.g., a Head Start program and adult education program work together through referrals but do not have a formal MOU)

Coordination

Cooperation

Supporting each other through referrals, advertising, letters of support, or co-sponsoring programs, etc. (e.g., holding an ILA event at a library to expose families to the library services)

Full Collaboration

Having an MOU, planning programs together, having a common purpose or objective, etc. (e.g., an adult education program has funding for a family literacy program and works with an early childhood program to provide space, plan curriculum, etc.)

Partnership Continuum (Prevention Solutions, 2020; Frey et al., 2006)

Appendix C: Partner Planning Document

Use this table to help brainstorm needs and service providers. Think about how the partnership should be defined (refer back to [Partners](#) above, if needed). Some possible needs and services are provided in the first two rows. Add rows as needed.

What outside services does the program need?	What agency or service provider could assist?	Contact information (e.g., website, name, email, phone number)	How is the partnership defined? (Who is doing what? What outcomes are desired?)
<i>Example: ECE/school provider</i>	<i>local school, a child care center, Head Start</i>		
<i>Example: Parent Time assistance</i>	<i>local clinic to provide health information, banks to provide finance information, food resource providers</i>		

Group Activity—Dig Around

Discuss in groups of three

- Are AEFLA and/or ESSA program funds being used in your state for family literacy? If so, is how—RFP or allow use for AE and/or PE classes?
- What is happening locally in your public schools related to family engagement or family learning? Is there any way to connect with those efforts?
- Do you have a statewide family engagement center in your state? Are you involved with the work? In what way?
- How are Head Start or Early Head Start programs addressing family engagement in your community? Do some parents need to earn HSE, or learn English? Can you partner with these programs?
- What can you do to partner with other programs to apply for funding?

- Federal Funding Chart
- *From Scratch: Using AEFLA funds to develop a family literacy program*
<https://tinyurl.com/FamilyLitToolkit>
- NCFL – [Sustain & Gain Guide](#)
- [White House Toolkit on Federal Resources to Support Community Schools](#)
- Children’s Funding Project, [Federal Funding Streams for Children and Youth Services](#)

Please contact us:

Carol Clymer
Co-director



Goodling Institute for Research in Family
Literacy/ISAL at Penn State
cdc22@psu.edu

Tony Peyton

Executive Vice President
National Center for Families Learning
tpeyton@familieslearning.org

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