

IET and Braided Funding

A Practical Approach



Handbook Guide

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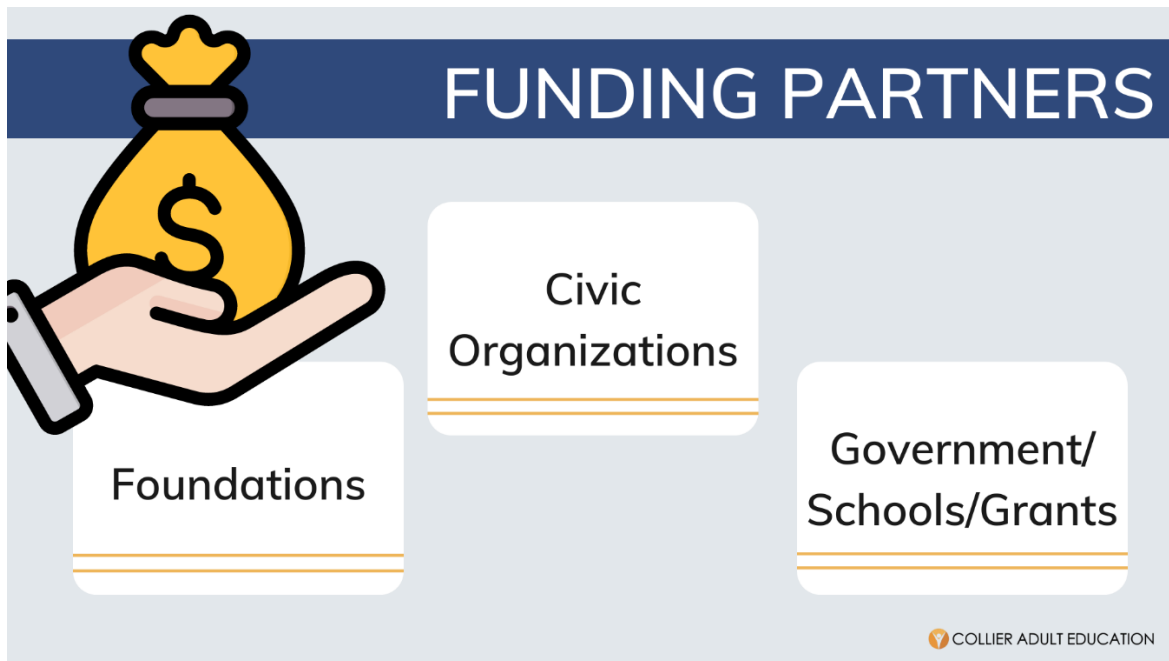
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What is Braided Funding?

Braided funding refers to the weaving together of federal, state and private funding sources and the development of funding strategies for the purpose of supporting Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs.



Braided funding is a collaborative effort which requires vested parties to have a clear understanding of:

- Integrated Education and Training and its purpose
- The benefits of IET for students and the workforce
- Expected outcomes

The benefits of braiding funding include:

- Opportunities to build new partnerships with postsecondary institutions, civic organizations, foundations, CareerSource, Vocational Rehabilitation, etc.;
- Institutional transformation which includes promotion of Adult Education as the “pipeline to the workforce”, and
- Efficiency and effectiveness in providing training opportunities to adult students.

Civic Organizations

Civic organizations have a desire to make improvements to their community in a variety of areas including education. Civic organizations include Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Women Clubs, etc. They often have weekly or monthly meetings and are always looking for speakers to speak at their meetings and causes to support. Below are examples of how civic organizations in Collier County have supported Integrated Education and Training programs:

- The Rotary Club of Naples Bay held a “Caribbean Caper” event to raise funds to support the Culinary Arts IET program. Funds raised were used to purchase culinary coats, aprons and some personal culinary supplies for the students.
- The Rotary Club of Naples has a “Learn to Earn” program. IET students accepted into the “Learn to Earn” program get funding for tuition and a mentor.
- The Women In Naples Giving Support (WINGS) donated \$5,000 to support Integrated Education and Training programs.

Most all communities have civic organizations, below are steps you can take to get them interested in IET.

- Make a list of all the civic clubs in your area.
- Reach out to the clubs and ask to be a speaker at one of their meetings.
- Prepare a presentation highlighting Adult Education and its impact in the community. Give it a title that will catch their attention such as “Adult Education: The Workforce Pipeline.”

Civic/Non Profit Organizations

- What Civic Organizations do you have in your area?
- Do they know about Adult Education and it's impact on the community?
- Do they know about your programs Return on Investment (ROI) ?

Foundations

There are community, state and national foundations who are interested in supporting education. Do research on foundations in your area and start building a relationship with them. Invite them to your school and share all the work that your Adult Education Program is doing in building the “workforce pipeline”. Below are foundations that are supporting CTE and IET programming in Collier County:

- Daniel May Foundation (National)
- Moorings Park Foundation (Local)
- Community Foundation (Local)
- Future Makers of SW Florida (Regional)
- Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation (National)

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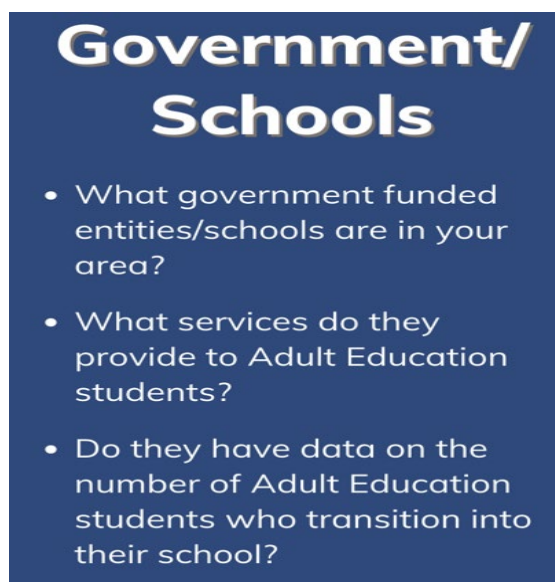
Government Funded Entities/Post-secondary Institutions

Government funded entities such as Career Source and Vocational Rehabilitation and Adult Education IET programs have shared outcomes when it comes to transitioning students to postsecondary training or the workforce. Funding may vary from county to county but at a minimum they will support students who meet their eligibility criteria.

In Collier County, Career Source Southwest Florida has a Youth Education Job Readiness program, which provides services to youth up to age 21 who are low-income, at risk of dropping out of school or already have, and/or face other barriers to employment and educational achievement. Eligible IET students may be funded through this program and receive additional services such as:

- Leadership development opportunities
- Supportive services
- Mentoring
- Follow-up services
- Comprehensive guidance and counseling

Postsecondary institutions also have a vested interest in Adult Education students. Lorenzo Walker Technical College in analyzing its enrollment data discovered that on average about 25% to 30% of their CTE students had a prior Collier County Adult Education enrollment. This data lead for LWTC to commit finding funds to set aside tuition vouchers and scholarships for IET students who enroll in specific IET programs.



Other Funding Opportunities

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- Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant - Lorenzo Walker Technical College in partnership with the Adult Education Program applied for the grant and used it start a Pre-Apprenticeship HVAC/R program for Adult Education students. The grant funded the full cost of the program.

- Adult General Education Grant – Collier County Adult Education used the Adult General Education Grant to pay a \$30.00 registration fee as part of the “federal or state” to meet the Open Door Grant “last dollar” requirement.
- Open Door Grant – Lorenzo Walker Technical College received the Open Door grant in 20-21 and used the funds to implement and support IET programs. For the 2022-2023 school year, Adult Education providers without a technical college in their district will be eligible to apply for Open Door funding. You need to monitor the upcoming FLDOE rule development process and consider whether you would like to submit an application when the RFA is opened for new agency awards. All eligible agencies will be notified when the RFA is open for additional funding requests.

Other Funding Opportunities

Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant

In 2020, LWTC applied for and received funding to implement an HVAC/R pre-apprenticeship program. The targeted population was adult education.

Open Door Grant

In 2021, LWTC applied for and received 1.5 million dollars. Funds were used to implement and deliver IET programs by funding student scholarships.

WDA Vouchers

School Districts and Florida Colleges may waive fees for any fee-nonexempt student. The total value of the fee waivers granted may not exceed the amount established annually in the General Appropriations Act.



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Conclusion

Collier County Adult Education in collaboration with Lorenzo Walker Technical College has spent years developing local, state and national partnerships which has led to its success in securing government and private funding. Representatives from both organizations take advantage of opportunities to speak to groups and invite groups to take tours of the schools. They work closely with the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce and host

“Education Day” for their leadership groups. It was through the hosting of “Education Day” where the relationship with the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, The Daniel May Foundation and the Kansas City Community Foundation started.

Resources vary from community to community and we all need to start somewhere. Take the first step and start identifying resources in your community and fundraising opportunities. Collaboration is key to braided funding and your program’s success.

Collaboration is Critical for Success



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