

**Illinois Community College Board  
Adult Education and Family Literacy  
Budget Conference Call FAQs**

1. Are rescissions on the table at any level?
  - Rescissions have not been discussed at this time. The conversation that we have heard is that Adult Education will be level funded. This is February. We will have to wait and see how we fair.
  
2. Will third and fourth quarter payments be received this fiscal year?
  - Programs should not expect third (for some programs) and fourth quarter payments until after July 1, 2010. It could happen, but it is not likely.
  
3. Is this the same for the college operating funds?
  - Yes. Colleges may not receive funding until after July 1, 2010 as well.
  
4. Has this been communicated to the Presidents and Chief Financial Officers at Community Colleges?
  - Yes. This information has been shared numerous times.
  
5. What do you mean by allows more flexibility? Is that for the current year?
  - In meeting federal maintenance of effort, we can do one of two processes
    - i. Actual State level resources
    - ii. Cost per student
      - The cost per student principle will require us to cap enrollment statewide to ensure we meet the maintenance of effort requirements. This will allow greater flexibility in providing the additional support services to students and concentrating on the quality aspect of adult education programs rather than quantity. However, this will mean extensive tracking of student enrollments.
  
6. What is the status of additional funding from the federal government we have been hearing about?
  - It looks as though ICCB will be receiving a slight increase in federal funding for adult education services. We don't have final numbers at this time.

Will there be any chance we will have to return Federal funds for FY10?

- At this point, we will meet our maintenance of effort for FY10 and will not be required to return any Federal funds.

How does more funding from the Federal level affect maintenance of effort?

- The only affect it will have is our ability to continue the level of support we currently have or switch to a cost per student process.

Does any additional funding from the federal government affect the 2011 or 2012 budget?

- Additional Federal resources received from the federal level will affect the budget year in which it is allocated. It doesn't require an increase in State Maintenance of Effort.

7. Do we have any idea when the RFP will be released for FY11?

- The RFP will be released after the COABE meeting. The ICCB will send an email as to when approximately, you can expect the RFP to be released.

8. If there is currently no money to support the program to continue providing services, and programs must close doors, wouldn't I need to release the unspent money to the state?

- Yes. If you will be closing your doors before spending your allocated funds, you must contact the ICCB and we will stop the fourth quarter payments. We will try to see if anyone is willing to absorb resources that may not be received until the next fiscal year.

9. CBO's are concerned about the move to a cost per student because of lack of funds other than ICCB funds and they don't have resources. How do you see that working? Concern because their cost per student is higher because of the services they provide and how this would affect their programming.

- The cost per student calculation is a simple calculation determined by the federal government. Moving to a cost per student basis and a statewide manage enrollment process, will limit the number of students in the program and allow greater flexibility for programs to increase program improvement and support service that links to better quality instructional services.

10. Can you speak to whether the community college credit hour rate (apportionment rate) will change during the next year? Would it go lower?

- College rates are affected by costs and appropriation.

11. How will performance and learning gains be affected, given a managed enrollment process?

- This will have to be analyzed over time. Performance may be affected as numbers of students' decreases. The denominator from previous years will definitely be affected and may result in decreases in performance. However, if numbers of students decrease and money remains somewhat constant as compared to previous years, more time can be spent on curriculum development, teacher quality, pre/post-testing, and the overall improvement of the program. With less number of students served the more time that can be used with students who are enrolled and the probability of greater learning gains.

12. Does this mean we will not be competing for funds as we had previously planned?
  - We will be reviewing all of the information to make a determination as to whether a competitive process will be instituted. Programs will be notified of the decision.
13. In terms of cost per student, will we be using the same strategy for state funds as federal funds?
  - Yes. This is for all funds, both state and federal.
14. Do you currently know what the cost per student is in Illinois for Adult Education?
  - The current Federal cost per student calculation is \$148.00 per student. This cost per student only takes into consideration federal resources and the number of students served in programs who meet federal guidelines.
15. If we go to a cost per student will ICCB be making the decision on how many students a program can serve? How will you be making that decision?
  - Yes. The ICCB will make the decision as to the number of students a program can serve. We will examine past three years data for each program, data that is reported to the federal government, and proposed students that you anticipate serving in each of the instructional categories. We may also have discussion with programs.
16. Could you give us some talking points to go to our administrators so we can work with them on planning for next year?
  - Yes. Ellen Andres will work with programs on an individual basis.  
[Ellen.Andres@illinois.gov](mailto:Ellen.Andres@illinois.gov)
17. Has there been any consideration on raising the amount that can be charged per student to help keep programs going?
  - We will examine this figure internally and make a decision on the fees that can be charged to students.
18. Can we expect to get all of our federal money that was allocated this year?
  - Yes.
19. Do states that only receive federal funds use a cost per person or how do they maintain effort?
  - Yes. In order to receive federal dollars all states will have to have cash or use a cost per student process.
20. In light of this situation, would the state consider not having a competitive process this year?
  - We will take this along with other information into consideration.

21. If we go with a cost per student, why would we have to work with fewer students?
- It is a tricky thing. The lower the number of students we serve the higher is our per student cost. If we go over the number of students, we would be in jeopardy of losing some or part of the federal funding because we would be reducing the cost per student.
22. What advice would you give institutions that will see cash flow issues?
- Talk with your institution to see if they will support adult education until funds are received. If you are an institution that has the support, that is great. Start early in the conversations, so that there won't be any surprises.
23. Is there any way we can charge students if the funding does not come through?
- The Illinois Constitution guarantees that everyone is entitled to a free 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade education in Illinois. This would require a constitutional change. We would have to consult legal representation and this would be a lengthy process.
24. When you say limit the number of students are you also saying limit the services we give to them?
- No. That doesn't mean limit the services to students. A program may see an increase in services for students.
25. Is it possible to charge more students to credit hours?
- All students who meet the criteria are reported to the federal government, both adult education and credit hours. (community colleges only)
26. Will the assessment play more of a key role in the process of determining students we serve?
- Assessing student will be key in this managed enrollment process. Focused and appropriate pre and post-testing is essential.
27. If level funding for FY11 is assumed, do you really believe we will get all of those payments in FY11?
- This is all dependent upon the cash flow to the state, and unless there are increases in state revenues (tax increase), cash flow will not change.
28. When you stated we will not get another payment this year, are you talking about federal money or only state money?
- This refers to State Payments (State Basic, State Public Assistance, State Performance) It is not likely you will receive any more payments before June 30, 2010, but this is not definite.
29. In regard to the 5% loss limit and the funding formula, will that still be used next year?
- This is still under discussion.

30. For FY11, will allocations be retroactive to July 1 or will they start at a later date?
- The grant agreement will state, effective July 1, 2010
31. What about the SOS funding or some of these state grants from DOT?
- Contact the appropriate personnel for these agencies to inquire.
32. If your institution cannot carry you due to the delays in funding, does that mean that programs will no longer be a provider?
- This is an individual institutions decision. Yes. If a program can no longer support the program, then a program must contact their Regional Support Specialist to begin the close out process.
33. Would generation still be a part of the program?
- That will be reviewed by the ICCB.