**Wisconsin Literacy, Inc.**

**Grant Program for Literacy and GED Services**

**2017-18 Fiscal Year - 4th Quarter Report (April 1 – June 30)**

Wisconsin Literacy, Inc., received a grant contract with Department of Children and Families (DCF) for the 2017-19 state budget for a project to support literacy and General Educational Development (GED)/ High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) services for adults eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The following is the quarterly report of the 4th quarter of the 1st fiscal year of funding (from April 1 through June 30, 2018).

The funding is divided into two categories of services, with a much larger percentage of support going to the **GED Services Program**. Funding in this category supported 23 Wisconsin Literacy, Inc., (WLI) member agencies this quarter. Two of these agencies are state correctional facilities that fall under the Wisconsin Institutions Literacy Council umbrella (WILC). All literacy agencies that provided GED Services have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines their commitment to serve TANF-eligible adults with this funding. There was an emphasis on outreach to W-2 (Wisconsin Works) agencies in their respective regions to create a two-way referral process for services at the literacy agency and at the W-2 agency, if a learner qualified for benefits.

The second funding category supported **general “Literacy Services”** for 17 members who are providing little to no GED services to students. These programs include, but are not limited to, financial literacy, digital literacy, citizenship classes, health literacy, English language instruction, Adult Basic Education (ABE) services, workplace literacy, family literacy, and naturalization. These services occur in one-to-one tutoring settings, in small groups, or as part of class instruction throughout the year. Nearly all of these agencies offer free class instruction and tutoring and have open enrollment throughout the year to meet the needs of adult learners and their families.

The data below will detail the outcomes achieved by the grant program for the 4th Quarter of the 2017-18 fiscal year and provide some visual data representing the total 2017-18 fiscal year. Also included is data from a student participant survey that some of our members presented to their students as to the benefits of this program to them over the last fiscal year.

**4th Quarter Data from 23 GED/HSED Providers:**

**a. Total TANF-eligible students receiving GED/HSED instruction:** 686

**b. Total TANF-eligible students attempting the GED test:** 312

**c. Total TANF-eligible students successfully completing the GED/HSED**: 184

**4th Quarter Data from 16 Literacy Service Providers who completed Quarterly Survey**

**d. Total TANF-eligible students receiving literacy services:** 442

**e. Number of TANF-eligible students receiving literacy services who achieved a literacy gain:** 121

**4th Quarter Data from BOTH GED/HSED Services and Literacy Services Agencies**

**f. Outreach performed by Wisconsin Literacy, Inc. to W-2 agencies and other agencies that provide TANF-funded services:** See Addendum below

**g. Number of W-2 referrals received by GED/HSED Providers and Literacy Service Providers:**

GED Service Providers: 106

Literacy Service Providers: 9

**h. W-2 Referrals that completed their GED/HSED:** 43

**i. W-2 referrals that gained a literacy level:** 10

**j. Other qualitative data that to demonstrate the results achieved by this program:**

**Sawyer County Literacy** is pleased to be able to continue into our 3rd year at the SC Jail (female inmates) with good communications between us as well as positive relationships/rapport with the Lt and jailers/Jail staff. The tutors there are so dedicated and generous with their time, extra materials, and talents! Many job related goals, post-secondary schooling, career, academics, and others are being met. We also now have the ability for inmates to do final GED testing at LCO College, if they are on Huber and also take the local transit. And WI Literacy can pay for their tests! A local church has been willing to provide a number of bus tokens, too!

**Jefferson County Literacy Council (JCLC)** recently changed GED testing procedures at the Jefferson County jail. With the financial support of the DCF TANF grant via WI Literacy to cover GED testing fees and supplies, JCLC has been able to administer more GED tests this year. Recently, jail instructors were able to successfully prepare, test, and graduate a TANF eligible learner in just seven weeks. A graduation ceremony was held inside the jail classroom which greatly boosted the confidence of the graduate and the other learners in the program. The individual stated, "It has made me realize that there is more to life than the things I was doing in my past. It has given me the confidence I need to be successful."

**Literacy Network of Dane County** student, Gwen, talked about how GED Math tutoring has helped her with math in her personal life: “Learning the math has helped me with my finances, to calculate my money more and be responsible with my money. I don't let people cheat me anymore. I look at my receipts. I'm more conscious of numbers. I never thought much about numbers. Just to know numbers are used in everything - like a light bulb went off! Numbers are everywhere.”

At **Literacy Services of Wisconsin in Milwaukee** a TANF-eligible HSED graduate wrote: "Ever since I started this HSED program, I have become a better person...I have set higher expectations for myself and I have done things I never thought I'd do. Everything that we learned in class has sparked a new fuse in my everyday life. I have acquired my first job, caught up on all my debts, and proved to myself that I can accomplish anything if I don't give up."

**At Literacy Green Bay,** Oserig worked incredibly hard in class as well as outside of class to improve his English skills and prepare for the GED test series. He passed his last test on June 21st. Oserig remains in our program, as he wants to continue to improve his speaking and reading/writing skills in preparation for attending NWTC in the fall, where he hopes to eventually enroll in the Electrician program. He is a father of three, and his children have watched him progress through his studies and eventually pass all GED subject tests. Oserig used GEDReady and Subject Test vouchers provided to us through this grant, and would never have been able to afford these testing fees otherwise. So once again, THANK YOU!!

At **Latino Academy of Workforce Development,** Mario Castelo's persistence is admirable. He started as a Pre-GED student in the spring of 2016, and by the summer of the same year, he'd advanced to GED. Mario passed the first three tests during the fall semester, but unfortunately, he had to drop out of the program due to his wife's high-risk pregnancy; he had to get a second job and was unable to continue. Mario kept in touch throughout the year for job search assistance and to get more material so he could keep studying during his very limited free time. In the Spring of 2018, Mario returned to the math class and was able to graduate in May. Now he's enjoying a healthy son and wife and has enrolled FT to the welding program at Madison College.

**Overview of FY 17-18**

Total Number of GED/HSED Completers in FY 2016-17: 365

Total Number of GED/HSED Completers in FY 2017-18: 452

Total Number of w-2 Clients Completers in FY 2016-17: 96

Total Number of w-2 Clients Completers in FY 2017-18: 129

**GED Services Participants:**

1. Columbus Literacy Council
2. Faith Lutheran Literacy - Janesville
3. Fox Valley Literacy Council
4. Grant County Family Literacy Council
5. Hope Academy – La Crosse
6. Jefferson County Literacy Council
7. Latino Academy of Workforce Development
8. Literacy Chippewa Valley
9. Literacy Green Bay
10. Literacy Network - Madison
11. Literacy Services of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
12. Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
13. Next Door - Milwaukee
14. Omega School - Madison
15. Page Forward Volunteers for Literacy in Clark County
16. Racine Literacy Council
17. Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center
18. Sawyer County Literacy
19. Social Development Commission - Milwaukee
20. Stateline Literacy Council - Beloit
21. Taycheedah Correctional Institution
22. UMOS - Milwaukee
23. YWCA - Milwaukee

**Literacy Services Participants:**

1. Adult Learning Center - Milwaukee
2. Adult Literacy Center of Ozaukee County
3. Alternative Center for Education - Appleton
4. Buffalo-Pepin Literacy Alliance
5. Central Wisconsin Literacy Council – Wisconsin Rapids
6. Centro Hispano - Milwaukee
7. Fond du Lac Literacy Services
8. Indianhead Community Action Agency (Rusk County)
9. Indianhead Community Action Agency (Washburn County)
10. International Learning Center/Neighborhood House of Milwaukee
11. Learning Partners - Hartford
12. Literacy Council of Green County
13. Literacy Council of Sheboygan County
14. McLit - Marathon County
15. Portage County Literacy Council
16. Taylor County Literacy Council
17. WestCAP (Pierce, Polk and St. Croix counties)