Maine DOE Newsroom

MEDIA RELEASE: Maine Adult Education Programs to provide laptops to remote learners with help from Maine Community Foundation grant

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Maine CF: **Carl Little**
Contact Maine DOE: **Kelli Deveaux**

AUGUSTA—Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) is partnering with the Maine Department of Education (DOE) to ensure that adult learners have the technology they need to continue their studies. A grant of $75,000 from MaineCF will fund laptops for 56 adult education programs to allow students to remotely complete their high school equivalency or workforce training programs.

The partnership is based on the mutual belief of MaineCF and Maine DOE that better access to educational opportunities will help improve the quality of life for Maine people. While much attention has been given to Pre-K to 12 schools in Maine, adult education programs are a key support for Maine's most at-risk students and workforce development to strengthen Maine's economy.

The shift to remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the fragility and fragmentation of technology access in Maine. The progress of many adult education students has been stalled by their inability to participate in online classes. MaineCF hopes that closing the technology gap will help adult education students complete their programs and continue their path to lifelong learning.

“Adult Education students already are facing significant barriers in their pursuit of education,” noted Cherie Galyean, MaineCF director of strategic learning and staff member behind the foundation’s Access to Education strategic goal area. “MaineCF does not want technology to be one of those barriers. Our hope is that this grant will help address the problem of digital inequity and help adult learners continue on their path to success.”

MaineCF worked with Maine DOE’s Adult Education team to survey the adult education programs in Maine and found technology access was a barrier that needed to be addressed.

“Though adult education programs quickly transitioned to remote learning, students without computer devices were unable to continue,” said Dr. Gail Senese, Maine DOE director of adult education. “As a result, hundreds of students enrolled in high school equivalency and workforce training programs were unable to earn their credentials, college transition learners were cut off from classes preparing them for postsecondary admission, and English language students were left isolated,” she noted. “The advocacy of Maine Community Foundation for adult learners is demonstrated in a generous donation, resulting in the acquisition of 375 devices, including laptops and Chromebooks, that local programs will be able to provide to the most in-need students.”

School and daycare center closings also have impacted adult learners who need flexible learning schedules as they care for their children. Adult education programs have expanded their capacity to provide remote instruction to ensure that learning can continue, regardless of schedule or location. But access to technology remains critical for these students.

“Many of our students do not have the necessary technology at home to access online learning classes, and we know that with access comes opportunity,” said Biddeford Adult Education Director Paulette Bonneau. “These computers take away one more barrier to our students’ success, allowing them to continue their learning without interruption and to learn anytime, from anywhere.”

The Department of Education is expected to deliver the laptops to adult education providers regionally by the end of the month to be distributed as soon as possible to students with the greatest need.

“Adult education programs are vitally important and are successful because they provide adult learners with a more flexible schedule to fulfill their education needs anytime during the year,” said Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin. “The need for these devices to help them continue this important work is critical and the DOE is extremely grateful to MaineCF for its generosity in providing this much-needed funding to Maine’s adult education programs.”

###

Share:

Email Facebook Twitter Instagram LinkedIn Print

Like this:

Like

Be the first to like this.

Posted on **July 9, 2020**

Previous
FREE VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION TEAMS JULY 30-31

Next
UPCOMING AND ONGOING VIRTUAL SESSIONS AND RECORDINGS OFFERED BY THE MAINE DOE

SUBSCRIBE VIA EMAIL

Email address Subscribe

PRIORITY NOTICE

- PRIORITY NOTICE: Investment in Maine's Career and Technical Education Centers Critical to Economic Recovery, Says Governor Mills
  May 14, 2021
- PRIORITY NOTICE: 2021-2022 NEO Maine Schools for Private Schools and Updated School Approval Process
  May 13, 2021
- A Letter to America's Teachers from Secretary Cardona
  May 7, 2021

More Priority Notices

PRESS RELEASES

- An 'End of Year Message' to Maine's Education Communities from the Maine 2021 County Teachers of the Year
  June 8, 2021
- MEDIA RELEASE: School Nutrition Programs to Feed Children Beyond School Year with Summer Food Service Program
  June 4, 2021
- MEDIA RELEASE: National Funding to Support Enhanced Access, Utilization of Wabanaki Resources
  May 27, 2021

More Press Releases

DISPATCHES

- Priority Notice: Extension of Emergency Certification Options Coming Soon
  June 11, 2021
- Maine DOE Proudly Shares Summer Learning Opportunities for Education Workforce
  June 11, 2021
- PRIORITY NOTICE: Governor Ending State of Civil Emergency June 30, Requirements move to Recommendation
  June 11, 2021

More Dispatches

See Full Professional Development Calendar

Search ...

FOLLOW US

Maine DOE Twitter
Maine DOE Facebook
Email subscriptions

SHARE SCHOOL SUCCESS

BROWSE BY CATEGORY OR MONTH

Select Category

BROWSE BY DATE

Select Month

MAINE DOE NEWS ON TWITTER

Tweets by @mdoenews

ME Dept of Education
@mdoenews

Maine DOE Update – June 11, 2021
mainedoenews.net/2021/06/11/mai…

Maine DOE Update – June 11, 2021
From the Maine Department of EducationReporting Items
mainedoenews.net

Jun 11, 2021

ME Dept of Education
@mdoenews

Priority Notice: Extension of Emergency Certification Options Coming Soon mainedoenews.net/2021/06/11/pri…

Priority Notice: Extension of Emergency Certification Options Coming Soon
Since May of 2020, a group of education stakeholders has been involved in a consensus-based rulemaking process, which involved reviewing and proposing revisions to Chapter 115, the State Board rule...
mainedoenews.net

Jun 11, 2021

Embed View on Twitter

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Maine Department …
4,386 likes

Like Page Share