



For Immediate Release

## **With Support from the Community Funding Accelerator, Three States Win \$150+ Million to Support Students with Literacy**

*U.S. Department of Education grants poised to accelerate efforts to improve reading across Massachusetts, Nebraska, and Ohio; CFA communities have won \$260+ million this summer*

**[September 18, 2024]** The Community Funding Accelerator (CFA) announced today that all three states it recently supported with applications won U.S. Department of Education grants, resulting in [up to \\$153 million](#) to support hundreds of thousands of students learning to read more effectively.

Earlier this month, Massachusetts, Nebraska, and Ohio each won a Comprehensive Literacy State Development grant, with possible total awards ranging from \$38 million to \$60 million over five years depending on appropriations from Congress and grantee progress. The funding comes at a critical time as states move to implement practices backed by the science of reading just as COVID-related federal funding is running out.

In total, all three states' proposals have a potential reach of hundreds of thousands of students.

"The Community Funding Accelerator is proud to have supported three state departments of education with winning this competitive federal grant and putting hundreds of thousands of students in position to benefit," said Matt Ramirez, a project leader at CFA. "Literacy is the foundation of innovative education and workforce solutions, and we believe the programs made possible through this grant will unlock opportunities and strengthen the future in Massachusetts, Nebraska, and Ohio."

CFA helped each state develop a proposal that was tailored to its own needs:

- Massachusetts aims to provide high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction and resources to more school districts to support pandemic recovery and literacy achievement.
- Nebraska aims to enhance statewide literacy by funding initiatives to ensure all students read at or above grade level.
- Ohio aims to support districts, schools, and early care programs with intensive, targeted implementation support through Literacy Implementation Sites, representing geographically and economically diverse high-need schools across the state.



“The support and technical assistance provided by the Community Funding Accelerator was instrumental in Nebraska’s successful CLSD application,” said Allyson DenBeste, Academic Officer at the Nebraska Department of Education. “The CFA team took the time to review our application and provided critical feedback and clarity to make our application stronger. We are grateful for their assistance.”

With these three wins, CFA-supported communities have now won more than \$260 million this summer alone. The funding comes from a range of grants that advance career readiness:

- Comprehensive Literacy State Development
  - [Massachusetts](#), \$38 million
  - [Nebraska](#), \$55 million
  - [Ohio](#), \$60 million
- Tech Hubs
  - [Heartland Bioworks, Indiana](#), \$51 million
  - [Elevate Quantum, Mountain West](#), \$41 million
- Recompete
  - [Birmingham, Alabama](#), \$20 million
- ExLENT
  - [Jacksonville, Florida](#), \$1 million

For more information, and to access CFA’s Federal Grants Tracker, visit [communityfundingaccelerator.org](https://communityfundingaccelerator.org).

### **About the Community Funding Accelerator**

The Community Funding Accelerator (CFA) helps underserved communities access competitive federal grants. With a focus on K-12 education and workforce pathways, CFA identifies relevant grant opportunities, builds coalitions, and provides deep technical assistance to submit winning applications. CFA also supports implementation to create innovative education and workforce solutions in communities across the U.S. The CFA pilot is led by Delivery Associates, a public sector consulting firm.

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