

# **Scenarios for Funding Local Programs Concurrent Session**

## **Scenario 1 - Distance Education Initiative**

State A intends to add a statewide distance education program to its funded adult education services beginning July 2009. It has conducted a pilot test in 10 sites using GED Connections and is now ready to allow other programs to apply for approval to add GED Connections at a distance to its program offerings. The multi-year grants awarded to eligible providers are expiring in June 2009, and State A wishes to conduct two competitions for the upcoming year. First, it wants to compete funds for comprehensive adult education services delivered in traditional classroom settings. This competition will result in services to all 36 counties in the state. Second, it wants to conduct a separate competition for distance education using GED Connections. State A wishes to establish the distance learning program only in 14 of its most rural counties. The community college system in State A operates a rural community college consortium and is well positioned to deliver distance education services. The college consortium also employs teachers who are trained as distance educators.

State A has several other priorities it hopes to accomplish through the competition in addition to establishing distance education. It seeks to establish strong linkages with postsecondary education to promote adult learners entry into postsecondary programs; align its state standards for secondary education to college entrance requirements; and strengthen accountability by creating incentive funds for high performing programs.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. The State is planning to release competitive funding announcements in three months. Review the “rules for the road.” Identify any “potholes” the state should avoid in competing funds in 2009.
2. Given the identified “potholes,” is there a way the state could accomplish its objectives AND keep to the “rules of the road?”

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## **Scenario 2 – Consolidating Local Programs**

State B plans to run a new competition for funds to be awarded in July 2008. The multi-year grants currently in place were awarded July 2000 through June 2005 and have been extended for the last three years. The state currently has 278 grantees receiving state and federal funds with grants ranging in size from \$30,000 to \$500,000. The state's goal is to consolidate its slate of funded service providers for the purpose of encouraging more comprehensive, coordinated services in each of the state's 52 counties, increasing administrative efficiency, and providing support to smaller agencies for increased accountability requirements. The state plans to create an allocation amount for each of the 52 counties and to fund one grant per county. It intends to create incentives within the competitive process to encourage existing service providers to voluntarily form consortia or other administrative arrangements in order to maintain a wide range of service options available to adult learners in the state.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Can the state keep to the "rules of the road" and successfully accomplish its consolidation goals?
2. Which rules create major challenges to the state?
3. How can the state successfully negotiate these rules?