Culture of Collaboration: Setting the Stage for Community Dialogue

The Culture of Collaboration initiative, funded by the Government of Alberta, developed in response to the growing recognition that community conversations are a valuable tool to increase awareness, identify local learning needs, foster new and existing partnerships, and enhance access to literacy and lifelong learning opportunities in our communities. This initiative supports building a "Culture of Collaboration" in our communities, so solutions to addressing the needs of adult foundational learners can be tailored to meet specific local needs and be supported by the community as a whole.

Together We Can Build Vibrant Learning Communities

The Community Adult Learning Program Guidelines affirm the vision of the CALP system: Changing lives through adult foundational learning in connected communities. The logic model that supports this vision identifies the desired outcomes of CALP are for adult learners to:

- *Persist in learning foundational skills that they use in their everyday lives*
- *Have access to relevant and engaging learning opportunities*
- *Benefit from CALPs that are well-connected in their communities*

Adult learners are part of the larger social and economic system within their community. They raise their families, have friends and networks, work, play and contribute to community life. All of these social and economic "systems" provide windows into the challenges and skills gaps that exist for adult foundational learners in their communities. Adult Literacy and Foundational Learning community-based organizations are uniquely positioned to be leaders in engaging their communities in collaborative efforts to look through these windows and find out what learners need, and how to provide it.

The CALP Policy Manual recognizes that community-based adult learning organizations have a key role to play in building awareness and support for foundational learning at the community level. Engaging community partners and mapping out the supports that are available to adult learners in your community is key to your program's success.

The Culture of Collaboration initiative supports Community Adult Learning Programs funded by Advanced Education to work with community partners to begin dialogues about how we can change the lives of adult learners in each community and how to do it together*.*

Have questions about the Culture of Collaboration Initiative? Please see our <u>FAQs</u>*. Interested in applying for the Culture of Collaboration Funding & Supports? Consult our* <u>Readiness Self-Checklist</u>*, then fill out an application form. Can't find the answer to your question? Call 1-877-485-4926 Ext. 1 or email* <u>ed@calp.ca</u>

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to participate in the Culture of Collaboration Initiative?

No, participation in this initiative is encouraged but is completely voluntary.

Do I have to host an event?

No, you do not have to host an event or requesting funding to be part of this initiative. However, the application process is intended for organizations who need tools and/or support to host a dialogue, and/or funding to bring their community together for a dialogue. Dialogues may take place in-person, online, blended or through asynchronous in initiatives.

What are the timelines for this initiative?

This initiative is ongoing through the Community Learning Network. Organizations can apply for funding at any point throughout the year. Funding is first come, first served.

How far in advance do I need to apply?

Allow at least six weeks before your event for us to review your application, review event requirements and ensure we can provide the support that you are requesting.

Can I apply if I'm not a CALP-funded organization?

No, funding and/or support is limited to CALP-funded organizations.

What support can I expect from CLN?

CLN will approve financial support (average reimbursement is up to $1000 per CALP-funded organization per year) for each successful application. Other kinds of support are tailored to your specific needs, and the needs of your community. These may include:

- Tools, templates and guidelines to help engage a broad cross-section of the area you serve in a meaningful dialogue that best suits the needs of your community
- Mentoring for effective dialogue facilitation
- Coaching on event planning and logistics for a successful event

Do I need Board Representation at the event?

In order to host a successful event, you will need all hands-on deck! A strong board and staff team is essential to carry out all of the duties required to plan and coordinate an event of this nature. Board members play a critical role in securing community support. Your board will also be key to sharing the vision of your organization and the Community Adult Learning Program to the community at large.

Will a representative from Community Learning Network attend my event?

Pending availability, CLN will send a representative at your event to provide supplemental support.

Does my Comprehensive Community College (CCC) have to be involved in this event?

No, however, connecting with your stewardship representative is important! Showcasing existing literacy and learning partnerships is important to those attending the dialogue. Highlighting the existing relationships between community programs and the post-secondary system is also important to strengthen our system. CCCs may also be willing to help you plan, speak to your attendees, make a cash or in-kind donation to your event, or help build your guest list.

What are the reporting requirements for me if my organization accesses support through the Culture of Collaboration initiative?

Once your application has been approved, you will be required to sign a letter affirming that you will adhere to the initiative's reporting requirements. These include submitting a post event summary, a summary of event revenue and expenses, and a brief community report. You will also be asked to share key documents and templates that you use during the event to collect community input, and samples of any materials you use to promote your initiative. All reporting must be submitted within 8 weeks of your event or no later than June 15th.

Community
Learning
Network

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Readiness Self-Checklist

*Work through this checklist to gauge your readiness to collaborate and
prepare for the application process.*

What do you want to get out of a community dialogue?

❑ Have you identified clear goals for your community conversation?

❑ Have you determined how you think this dialogue will help your organization strengthen your
connections to the community and to support adult learners?

❑ Do you have a plan for how you will use the data gathered from the dialogue?

❑ Have you discussed how to "keep the dialogue conversation alive" after your event?

Is Your Organization Ready to Have a Dialogue around Collaboration?

❑ Have you and your Board of Directors read and become familiar with the program vision and
outcomes of the CALP Policy Manual (2024)?

❑ Has your organization defined what a "culture of collaboration" means for your community?

❑ Are you currently partnering or collaborating with other organizations?

❑ Have you identified organizations, sectors and/or individuals in your community you would
like to invite into the conversation?

❑ Do you have the support of and commitment to participate in this event from your CCC?

Does your organization have the capacity to host a community dialogue?

❑ Is your Board of Directors interested in supporting this initiative? Will they approve the use of
the necessary resources to have a successful community dialogue?

❑ Does your organization have the capacity to support this event?