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| Higher Education and Skills Group**Participation Branch Memo****Department of Education and Early Childhood Development** |

***NUMBER:*** *2014 / 10 / 3*

**TO:**

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| Learn Local organisations *– ALL* | ACFE Board | ACFE Regional Councils |
| Adult Education Institutions | Learn Local stakeholders  | LLENs *– Chairs and/or Executive Officers* |
| Participation Branch staff |  |  |

**FROM:** Verna Kearney, A/Director, Participation Branch

**DATE:** 03/10/2014

**SUBJECT:** *Applications open for Partnerships for Access Grant Program*

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| **ACTIONS:**

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| * Note the Partnerships for Access Grant Program is now open for applications
* Read the Partnerships for Access Grant Program Information, available on the Department’s website
* Consider how partnerships could support your organisation and learners
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Applications are now invited from registered Learn Local Organisations (LLOs) to assist them in implementing partnerships across the Learn Local sector that contribute to their ongoing viability and effectiveness in meeting learner needs. Joined-up approaches that help to sustain ongoing Learn Local provision and increase opportunities for learners to access education and training pathways will be considered for funding. With a limited budget, grants will be offered on a competitive basis.

The Partnerships for Access Grant Program acknowledges the benefits available to both LLOs and learners when successful partnership arrangements are established and maintained, and responds to the challenges and opportunities LLOs face within a changing training environment. Partnerships between LLOs and with other community-based service organisations were a key direction identified in ‘*Learn Local: Focusing on the Future*’, the strategic plan for the Learn Local sector released in August 2013.

Within the available budget, the Partnerships for Access Grant Program offers two types of funding support to eligible LLOs as follows:

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|  | **STREAM** | **PURPOSE** | **VALUE** |
| 1. | **Partnership development** | Undertake a business case to decide whether or not to proceed with a partnership | Up to $5,000 for individual LLOs and up to $10,000 for LLO consortiums, for projects up to six months duration. |
| 2. | **Partnership implementation** | Support implementation of a partnership once an evidence base has been established and agreement to proceed has been reached between the partnering organisations | Up to $200,000 per LLO consortium for projects up to 18 months duration. |

Full information on the Partnerships for Access Grant Program and application process can be found in the Partnerships for Access Grant Program guidelines and Application forms, which are available on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) website: [http://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/providers/learnlocal/Pages/acfeboardfund.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/providers/learnlocal/Pages/acfeboardfund.aspx%20)

To apply, registered Learn Local organisations must complete and submit electronically an Application Form by the closing date of 5pm, 28 November 2014.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by 9 January 2015. Successful projects are expected to commence in February 2015, at the first grant payment.

This Grant Program has been informed by consultation with LLOs in April/May 2014. Stakeholder feedback from LLOs has been incorporated into the Partnerships for Access Grant Program guidelines. On behalf of the ACFE Board I encourage you to participate in this significant program.

If you require further information or have questions about the guidelines and application process, please contact your DEECD Regional Manager/Staff in the first instance. They can also provide information about policy and planning contexts for project ideas. For any additional information about the Partnerships for Access Grant Program please contact Amanda Wells, Participation Branch, at wells.amanda.l@edumail.vic.gov.au.