

Adult Education Changes Trajectories

Together, the Educate & Elevate Foundation and COABE envision a future where every adult learner and their family can thrive—powered by strong local programs, equipped educators, engaged partners, and equitable access to the resources, research, and professional learning that advance adult education nationwide.

Workforce Re-Entry & Economic Contribution

Adult education meets current challenges, stimulates the economy, and connects talent to employers.

Eddie Rivera

Adult education gave Eddie hope during his incarceration. After spending his 21st birthday in jail, Eddie knew he needed to accomplish something for himself. He studied hard and completed his HSE and upon reentry came out brimming with ideas. Today, Eddie is the proud owner of his own barber shop. He also paints murals.

3,754,550

ADULT LEARNERS
CONNECTED WITH
EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES

43%

LOWER ODDS OF
RECIDIVISM FOR
INMATES RECEIVING
SERVICES

+\$9,000

AVERAGE WAGE
INCREASE FOR GED
EXAM COMPLETERS

+\$10,000

AVERAGE WAGE
INCREASE FOR EVERY
100 SEAT HOURS

The Economic Impact of Academic Attainment

Adult education meets current challenges, stimulates the economy, connects talent to employers, and serves as an integral part of the workforce system. It unifies all four WIOA titles and provides essential wraparound services to the most marginalized populations, ensuring equitable access to economic mobility.

Educational Milestone	Economic Benefits & Tax Base Impact	Community & Fiscal Savings
High School Equivalency (HSE) Completion	Average annual wage earnings increase of \$9,000 for GED exam completers, scaling with continuous training.	For every 400,000 adults who earn their HSE, the tax base increases by \$2.5 Billion.
100+ Hours of Active Seat Time	Average wage earnings increase by \$10,000 for every 100 hours of structured seat time.	Dramatically reduces reliance on public support programs, saving the economy \$200 Billion overall.
Incarcerated Learner Services	Equips inmates with foundational literacy, numeracy, and vocational skills prior to release.	43% lower odds of recidivating, breaking generational cycles of crime and incarceration.