

OVAE CONNECTION

National Action Plan to Improve Health Literacy

The [National Action Plan to Improve Health Literacy](#) defines health literacy as “the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.” The plan aims to engage organizations, professionals, policymakers, communities, and families, in improving health literacy. The plan is based on the beliefs that: “(1) everyone has the right to health information that helps them make informed decisions and (2) health services should be delivered in ways that are understandable and beneficial to health, longevity, and quality of life.”

Research indicates that almost 90 percent of adults have difficulty using commonly available health information. Without clear information, an understanding of prevention and the ability to manage their conditions, people tend to skip needed medical tests, use emergency rooms more often, and struggle with chronic diseases such as high blood pressure and diabetes. People of all education levels, ages, races, and incomes are affected by limited health information, and lower socioeconomic and minority groups disproportionately so.

The report recommends seven goals to improve health literacy:

1. Develop and disseminate health and safety information that is accurate, accessible, and actionable.
2. Promote changes in the health care system that improve health information, communication, informed decision making, and access to health services.
3. Incorporate accurate, standards-based, and developmentally appropriate health and science information and curricula in child care and education through the university level.
4. Support and expand local efforts to provide adult education, English language instruction, and culturally and linguistically appropriate health information services in the community.
5. Build partnerships, develop guidance, and change policies.
6. Increase basic research and the development, implementation, and evaluation of practices and interventions to improve health literacy.
7. Increase the dissemination and use of evidence-based health literacy practices and interventions.

The Literacy Information and Collection System (LINCS) collection, supported by OVAE, includes a collection of [Health Literacy resources](#). It features subject-oriented, high-quality instructional resources, informed by research, for use by adult education and literacy educators. In addition the [LINCS Health Literacy Discussion List](#) is available for medical and healthcare professionals, adult educators, literacy practitioners, and others interested in discussing health literacy issues



OVAE Welcomes Josh Behsudi

OVAE is delighted to welcome Josh Behsudi as a management and program analyst for the DAEL Accountability Team. He will work with state grants for adult education and provide technical assistance to state staffs for their annual reporting and financial data. Before coming to OVAE, Josh served as the education services officer for the District of Columbia National Guard. In this position, he was responsible for administering education assistance programs, resources, and career counseling in support of National Guard service members who were pursuing postsecondary degrees and credentials. Prior to his work in the District of Columbia, Josh served on active duty in the U.S. Army as a plans and operations officer and as a platoon leader. He holds a master’s degree in public policy from George Mason University and a bachelor’s degree in public policy analysis from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Webinar on Funding Opportunities for Research in Postsecondary and Adult Education

The Institute of Education Sciences ([IES](#))’ National Center for Education Research ([NCER](#)) is hosting a webinar on funding opportunities in postsecondary and adult education research on July 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1p.m. EDT. Topics to be covered include a discussion of the Education Research grants program, as well as the current competition to propose the National Research and Development Center on Cognition and Adult Literacy. The webinar is focused on research projects that contribute to improved academic achievement for all students, especially those whose education prospects are hindered by inadequate education services and conditions associated with poverty, race and ethnicity, limited English proficiency, disability, and family circumstances.

[Registration](#) is required and must be received by **July 26**. Confirmation emails will be sent to registrants with instructions for joining the Webinar. If you require special accommodations to participate contact Deidre Young at dyoung@afyainc.com, or 301-957-3040, ext. 259.