For The Period July 1, 2006 Through June 30, 2007



# CRIT LUALLEN AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS www.auditor.ky.gov

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# CRIT LUALLEN AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

July 31, 2008

Sarah Hawker, Vice President Kentucky Adult Education Council on Postsecondary Education 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 250 Frankfort, KY 40601

David Jones, Judge Executive Ohio County Fiscal Court 130 East Washington Street Hartford, KY 42347

Re: Adult Education Grants

Dear Ms. Hawker and Mr. Jones:

This report contains the results of the performance audit of Ohio County Fiscal Court's administration of Ohio County's adult education grant for the fiscal year (FY) ending June 30, 2007. The Council on Postsecondary Education and Kentucky Adult Education contracted with us to conduct performance audits of selected local adult education providers. This report represents our findings, recommendations, and the provider's responses.

The Auditor of Public Accounts conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

We greatly appreciate the courtesies and cooperation extended to our staff during the audit.

Respectfully submitted,

Crit Luallen Auditor of Public Accounts

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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

# PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and Kentucky Adult Education (KYAE) selected the Ohio County Fiscal Court (local provider) for a limited scope performance audit of its administration of the adult education grant for Ohio County. An on-site review was conducted May 21, 2008 through May 22, 2008, to address the following objectives:

- Reconcile student and faculty data electronically submitted to KYAE through the Adult Education Reporting Information Network (AERIN).
- Determine whether the local provider's professional development activities comply with the FY 06-07 professional development policies and procedures manual.
- Determine whether local providers' expenditures and costs comply with the terms of their grant agreement and reconcile to invoices submitted.
- Report internal control weaknesses identified during our audit that relate to the audit's objectives.

To accomplish these objectives, the performance audit team reviewed the Kentucky Adult Education Policy and Procedure Manual, as well as the provider's grant proposal and final agreement with KYAE. During the on-site review, the audit team reviewed the provider's accounting records (trial balance/general ledger), interviewed program administrators regarding internal controls related to the above grants, and tested samples of participant files, personnel files, and expenditure documentation for compliance with applicable requirements. Below is the summary of findings:

#### FINDINGS SUMMARY

	Disallowed
FINDING	Costs
One participant file did not contain an applicable withdrawal statement.	N/A
One instructor did not have evidence of a bachelor's degree on file.	N/A

# **RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

# FINANCIAL REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE

#### Scope and Methodology

The KYAE-10 Expenditure Reports were compared to the line item budget approved in the final agreement modification. This comparison was used to determine whether the provider's reimbursements complied with the approved budget.

The KYAE-10 Expenditure Reports were then compared to the internally generated financial records maintained by the local provider. This comparison was used to determine whether the local provider's accounting records support the total amount requested for reimbursement on the KYAE-10 Expenditure Reports.

#### Findings

No exceptions were noted.

# PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY AND RECORD KEEPING

#### Scope and Methodology

A total of 19 participants were selected randomly from the electronic student data sent from KYAE and compared to the documentation maintained in the participant files. We examined the files for the following:

- Proper eligibility documentation.
- Proper assessment testing.
- Evidence to support the achievement of goals/objectives reported to KYAE.
- Proper separation from the program when applicable.
- Other requirements were tested based upon the applicable program requirements.

The participants tested received services during the period of July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007.

#### Findings

Participants aged 16 to 18 years must provide official documentation of withdrawal from school in order to be eligible. One participant file did not contain an applicable withdrawal statement.

#### Recommendations

We recommend that the provider ensure all participant files contain the necessary documentation to support compliance with applicable policies and procedures. If the participant is between 16 and 18 years of age, official documentation of their withdrawal from school should be included in their file. If an official withdrawal statement cannot be obtained for a valid reason, the participant's file should document the request and the reason it could not be obtained. Staff entering participant data should require documentation for any data entry performed on a participant and any file deficiencies should be reported to the Program Director.

**Provider Response** – [Management provided this response when their views and planned corrective actions were requested. The Provider was given a reasonable amount of time to adequately respond to this request.]

The provider did not respond to this exception.

### PAYROLL AND STAFF REQUIREMENTS

#### **Scope and Methodology**

A sample of 14 payroll disbursements, representing 21% of the total payroll expenditures, was judgmentally selected for payroll testing. Personnel files were examined to verify that staff had received the required professional development training hours. Documentation of hours worked was examined for existence and approval. Personnel files were examined to verify evidence of the instructor's bachelor's degree. A determination was made as to whether the employee was included in the staff listing information reported to KYAE.

#### Findings

CPE and KYAE require all instructors hired after July 1998 to have a bachelor's degree. One instructor did not have evidence of a bachelor's degree on file.

#### Recommendations

We recommend that the provider ensure that all instructors have the required credentials prior to hiring and that this information is obtained and maintained in the employee's file.

**Provider Response** – [Management provided this response when their views and planned corrective actions were requested. The Provider was given a reasonable amount of time to adequately respond to this request.]

The provider did not respond to this exception.

#### PURCHASING/EXPENDITURE COMPLIANCE

#### Scope and Methodology

A sample of 5 expenditures, representing 21% of the total purchases, was selected judgmentally from the detailed general ledger. These expenditures were tested for authorization/approval, supporting documentation, proper recording, and that it was an actual expense during the grant period of July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007.

#### Findings

No exceptions were noted.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REIMBURSEMENT COMPLIANCE

#### Scope and Methodology

Professional Development expenditures were tested for proper authorization, supporting documentation, and adherence to approved rates and reimbursement policies. A sample of 4 expenditures, representing 26% of the total professional development expenditures, was selected judgmentally from the detailed general ledger.

#### Findings

No exceptions were noted.

#### INTERNAL CONTROLS RELATING TO GRANT

#### Scope and Methodology

Ohio County Fiscal Court's fiscal administrator was given an Internal Control Questionnaire regarding the controls in place for cash disbursements, bank reconciliations, revenue, expenditures, and payroll. The questionnaire was completed by the fiscal administrator and reviewed for any significant control deficiencies.

#### Findings

No significant control deficiencies were noted.