

Appendix A – Institutional Notification of Interest Form

Ability to Benefit (ATB), a provision of section 484(d) of the Higher Education Act (HEA), aids in equity of access to Federal Financial Aid for adult learners lacking a high school diploma. The ATB provision allows eligible adult learners who are participating in a career pathway program as amended in Public Law 114-113 under section 484(d)(2) of the HEA to align with the definition of Section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(7)) at a Title IV eligible institution to have access to financial aid.

The purpose of Illinois' Ability to Benefit State-Defined Process is to increase access to federal financial aid for eligible adults without a high school diploma, who with proper support can be as successful as their peers in postsecondary credential and degree completion.

Institutional Obligations:

- a. Request to be part of the State-Defined Process via this form
- b. Collaborate internally to enroll, support, and track eligible students per the requirements of Illinois' Ability to Benefit State-Defined Process
- c. Submit Program Implementation Reports on an annual basis (August 30)
- d. Maintain a success rate of 95% as defined in Section VI or be in compliance with Section IX.

Institutions are *not* obligated to:

- e. Enroll a minimum number of students in ATB via this State-Defined Process, even if they have opted into the plan.

Institutional participation under this plan is set for SFY2023-2027 (July 1, 2022- June 30, 2026).

Community College:

District #:

College Designee for Agreement:

Phone Number/ Email:

President:

Date:

Please complete, sign, and return the following document to Angela Gerberding, Associate Director for Integrated Career Programs at angela.gerberding@illinois.gov.