

Program Standards:

In the early 1990's, state adult education programs developed *Indicators of Program Quality* that began to define the characteristics of effective program operations. The *Indicators* outlined standards and performance indicators for various local program functions such as recruitment, retention, program planning, curriculum and instruction, professional development, and community outreach. The state and local providers had a common set of expectations to guide local program operations and evaluation.

Since that time, most states have further refined and updated the Indicators into formalized Program Standards that define and quantify effective program operations. The standards provide very clear expectations on program functions and often include reference to categorical standards such as practitioner, professional development, or data quality standards. In turn, the program standards are used to guide the state's on-site monitoring visits and annual evaluations. Many states have adapted their program standards into self-assessments to enable local providers to annually assess their strengths and areas needing improvement.

If you would like to view examples of state program standards, click [here](#).

