

U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 5, 1994

CONTACT: KENT KEYSER  
Acting Press Secretary  
Phone: (202) 225-3452

**ARC GIVES \$50,000 TO WV ADULT EDUCATION**

WASHINGTON, DC -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) announced today that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has approved a \$50,000 grant to the West Virginia Department of Education for the Adult Skills and Academics Project (ASAP), which is designed to improve the basic skills of adults preparing to enter or already in the WV work force.

Competitive grants will be distributed to organizations that can conduct functional workplace education projects. Reading, writing, computational, and basic computer literacy skills will be taught as they relate to job-specific tasks.

"ASAP is unique in its plan to teach the application of basic skills in the context in which they will be used," said Rahall. "I expect this approach will be successful in enhancing West Virginia's work force."

ASAP is the joint effort of the WV Department of Education and the Thanks a Million Foundation. The Foundation will provide \$20,000 to cover the balance of this \$70,000 project.

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# PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

yes  
But we  
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later

1666 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20235 Telephone: (202) 673-7822

Project No. and Title: Adult Skills and Academics Project (ASAP) West Virginia Department of Education, Statewide, ARC No. WV-11494-94-I-302-0127

Grantee: West Virginia Department of Education

Funding:

ARC: \$50,000

Federal:

Non-Federal:

State:

Local:

Total: \$70,000

APR 28 1994

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The Appalachian Regional Commission announced today the approval of a \$50,000 grant to the West Virginia Department of Education for the Adult Skills and Academics Project (ASAP), a cooperative venture of the Department and the Thanks a Million Foundation, which is designed to address the basic skill needs of adults preparing to enter the work force or adults presently employed at work sites in West Virginia.

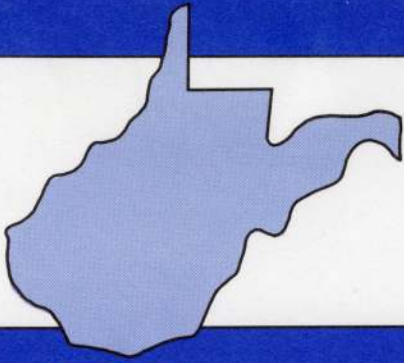
ASAP is an integral component of the Partnership for Skills at Work program, a new statewide initiative for improving the skills of the work force that is being implemented by the West Virginia Literacy Council, in conjunction with the West Virginia Department of education. Through the requested ARC funds, the Thanks a Million Foundation will provide competitive grants to organizations that demonstrate the ability to conduct functional workplace education projects. The projects' curriculum will include reading, writing, computational, or basic computer literacy skills as they directly relate to job-specific tasks.

ASAP is different from traditional adult basic education because it teaches skills in the context in which they will be used. ASAP is also different from vocational education or technical training because it teaches the applications of basic skills used to perform job tasks and not the content of the tasks themselves. Instruction is linked with specific job materials and situations; that is the project involves skill applications as they are



actually used on the job. This theory of instruction is referred to as the *functional context* approach. It works because the training in strategies and skills closely resembles their application to job situations.

The total cost of the project is \$70,000. The Thanks A Million Foundation will provide \$20,000.



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