

## **Senate Committee Strikes Funding for Even Start**

The Even Start Family Literacy Program was dealt a severe blow in September when the Senate Appropriation's Committee eliminated funding for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2004. Earlier in the year, the Bush Administration did not include funding for Even Start in the President's budget request, citing that the program had not made significant enough gains to justify the expense.

This places the Senate's bill at odds with the House version, which level funds the program at \$247 million in FY 2005. The differences in the bills will need to be resolved in Conference Committee.

For existing adult education and literacy programs, the Senate Committee included \$590.1 million, with \$574.2 million for State Grants, \$9.1 million for National Leadership Activities and \$6.6 million for the National Institute for Literacy. Those numbers are in line with the House Bill and the President's Budget Request.

For more on the appropriation bills, go to [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov), and type in S. 2810 or H.R. 5006 as the bill number.