



# Workforce Pell Orientation

Manufacturing Industry  
Consortium Q1 2026  
Meeting

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# What are Pell Grants?

Up to \$7,395 (2025-26) grant to offset the cost of higher education that does not need to be repaid.

## Student Eligibility

- Has exceptional financial need;
- Has not earned a bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree;\*
- Has earned a high school diploma, GED, or the equivalent; and
- Is U.S. citizens or an eligible noncitizen.

## Program Eligibility

- Is delivered by an accredited institution of higher education; and is a:
  - Degree program; or
  - Certificate program that is:
    - Longer than 600 clock hours delivered over at least 15 weeks; and
    - Credit-bearing

# Workforce Pell Program Eligibility

Expands the Pell Grant to provide financial aid to short-term workforce training programs for Pell-eligible learners.

- **Aligned with requirements of high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors/occupations**
- **Meets hiring requirements of employers**
- **Leads to an industry-recognized credential**
- **Stackable/portable**

**Governor/  
WTDB**

- $\geq 150$  clock hours,  $< 600$  clock hours;  $\geq 8$  weeks  $< 15$  weeks
- Offered for at least 1 year
- Completion rate  $\geq 70\%$  w/in 150% normal completion time
- Job placement rate  $\geq 70\%$  180 days after completion

*Tentative:  
Governor/  
HECC*

- Program cost  $\leq$  value-added earnings
- Offered by a Title IV eligible institution of higher education

# Existing Oregon Definitions

## High skill occupations

- Typical educational level needed for entry of postsecondary training (non-degree or higher)

## High wage occupations

- Paying more than the all-occupation, all-ownership median wage

## High demand occupations

- Having more than the median number of total openings

# In-demand industry sector or occupation:

An **industry sector** that has a substantial current or potential impact (including through jobs that lead to economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement) on the State, regional, or local economy, and that contributes to the growth or stability of other supporting businesses/ industry sectors

An **occupation** that currently has or is projected to have a number of positions (including positions that lead to economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement) in an industry sector so as to have a significant impact on the State, regional, or local economy

# Implementation Timeline & Milestones

## Q4 2025

- HECC staff review of existing programs
- HECC & WTDB orientation (12/11 & 12/12)
- Talent Assessment kick-off

## Q1 2026

- Recommended definitions approved by WTDB\*

## Q2 2026

- Governor adopts (or delays adoption) of definitions\*