



Workforce Pell Implementation Update

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Julia Pontoni

Director, Office of Workforce
Investments



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.

Can have a bachelor's for WF Pell

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 Grants?

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

Program Eligibility Criteria:

- 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
- ≥ 150 clock hours, < 600 clock hours; ≥ 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
- Program cost $\leq$ value-added earnings
- Offered by a Title IV eligible institution of higher education

Governor's/HECC's Role in Workforce Pell

Learner Eligibility/Awards

- No formal role

Program Eligibility/Approval

- Define certain eligibility criteria
- Develop and publish written policies related to Workforce Pell program eligibility
- Develop and implement program approval process

Workforce Pell Program Eligibility

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Governor/
WTDB/HECC

Workforce Pell Implementation Status

Milestone	Timeline	Status
HECC/WTDB Orientation	Q4 2025	Complete
Talent Assessment completed	Q2 2026	Complete
Funding opportunity announced	Q2 2026	Complete
Governor adopts high-skill, high-wage, in-demand definitions	<i>Goal:</i> Q2 2026	In progress
Written policies published	<i>Goal:</i> Q2 2026	In progress
Application portal opened	<i>Goal:</i> July 2026	In progress

Recommended Definitions: High-skill, high-wage, in-demand occupations

High-skill

- Typical entry-level ed is non-degree postsecondary or higher; or
- Typical entry-level ed. is apprenticeship; or
- Typical entry-level ed. is related work experience or long-term on-the-job training *and* competitive education requirement is non-degree postsecondary or higher.

High-wage

- An occupation with a median annual wage > the all-occupations median annual wage.

EXCEPTION

An occupation with strong wage growth potential as measured by the ratio of 75th to 25th percentile wages

In-demand

- An occupation with annual job openings > the median annual job openings for all occupations.

EXCEPTION

An occupation that's employment is $\geq$ 1% of a priority sector's total employment *and* that priority sector accounts for $\geq$ 30% of employment in the occupation.