Craft

2026–27 EDITION

70 / 70

COMPLETION — PLACEMENT — EARNINGS CAP

Prove It.

The Workforce Pell Data Playbook

The data you need to collect — and the results you need to prove — to win Workforce Pell funding for your programs, and keep it.

- The three numbers that decide eligibility
- A metric-by-metric data checklist
- The 2026–2031 compliance calendar
- A 10-point readiness scorecard
- Your first 90 days

Companion resource to the Craft Education webinar: Understanding Workforce Pell for Talent Pipelines (May 2026). Content verified against the final rule as of August 28, 2026.

BEFORE YOU DIVE IN

Who this is for — and how to use it

Workforce Pell is the biggest change to federal student aid in a generation: for the first time, Pell Grants — the government's largest program for helping people pay for college — can fund short-term job training programs of 8 to 15 weeks. The money went live on July 1, 2026, and the first programs were approved in August 2026.

But here is the part most institutions are underestimating: eligibility is not an application — it is a proof. Your program does not qualify because of what it teaches. It qualifies because of what you can demonstrate with data: how many students finish, how many get jobs, and whether the training pays off in real earnings. Programs that cannot produce that evidence do not get in, and programs that stop producing it get kicked out.

This playbook is written for the people who have to make that proof happen — workforce and continuing education leaders, deans, financial aid directors, institutional research teams, and the employer partners who co-sponsor training programs. No policy background required: every term is explained in plain English.

What's inside

BEFORE YOU RELY ON IT

This guide is educational content prepared by Craft Education and is not legal, financial aid, or compliance advice. Workforce Pell rules are new and implementation guidance continues to evolve. Verify every requirement that affects your institution's eligibility or compliance against the Department of Education's final rule (34 CFR Parts 600, 668, and 690; 91 FR 2026-10013, May 19, 2026) and current Federal Student Aid guidance, and consult your institution's financial aid, compliance, and legal counsel before acting. Figures describing state approval activity in Section 02 are a point-in-time snapshot as of August 28, 2026 and change frequently — confirm current numbers before citing them externally.

Workforce Pell in 60 seconds

What it is. Congress created Workforce Pell in the Working Families Tax Cuts Act (WFTCA) — also known during drafting as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) — the July 2025 budget law. It extends Pell Grants — need-based federal aid that does not have to be repaid — to short-term workforce training programs that were previously too short to qualify. Since the early 1990s, a program needed at least 600 "clock hours" (hours of actual instruction) to touch Pell dollars. Workforce Pell drops that floor to 150 hours.

What qualifies

- **Length:** 150–599 clock hours delivered over at least 8 but less than 15 weeks.
- **Track record:** the program must have been up and running — and meeting the requirements — for at least 12 months before the institution applies.
- **Institution:** accredited, Title IV-participating, with a clean compliance history (no suspensions, emergency actions, or program terminations in the past 5 years).
- **Format:** distance education is allowed; correspondence courses are not. Coursework that is noncredit, remedial, ESL, study abroad, or direct assessment cannot count toward the program's eligible hours.
- **Credential:** must lead to a recognized credential that is stackable and portable (or the single credential required for the occupation), and must count for academic credit toward a certificate or degree at one or more institutions.

Who can use it

- Students who qualify for Pell through the FAFSA — the same need-based test as regular Pell.
- Bachelor's degree holders can receive Workforce Pell (a major break from regular Pell rules). Graduate students cannot.
- Awards are prorated to program length and count against the student's Pell lifetime limit.

EXAMPLE RANGE

For the shortest allowed program (8 weeks / 150 clock hours), a student receiving the Pell minimum award (~$740 scheduled award) is disbursed about $62 for that payment period. For the longest allowed program (14 weeks / 599 clock hours), a student receiving the 2026–27 Pell maximum ($7,395 scheduled award) is disbursed about $1,991 per payment period — schools use the lesser of the hours-based or weeks-based proration fraction. Actual amounts vary by student SAI and program length.

THE ONE-SENTENCE VERSION

If your program is 8–15 weeks long, leads to a real credential, and you can prove at least 70% of students finish and at least 70% of finishers get jobs — federal grant money can now pay your students' tuition.

The window is open — and it is competitive

Workforce Pell is live right now, and the early numbers tell two stories at once: the opportunity is enormous, and the bar is real.

~184,000	28,000	$3.2B	33
STUDENTS	PROGRAMS, UP TO	OVER 10 YEARS	STATES
ED's projection for Workforce Pell recipients in the first full award year (2027–28).	Existing undergraduate certificate programs that could qualify nationwide, per ED's regulatory analysis.	Projected federal investment over 10 years.	Jurisdictions with an operational approval process as of August 26, 2026 — governors are approving programs now.

Now the other story

In Iowa — the first state to get a program federally approved — only 9 of the first 20 applications made it through the state review. Pennsylvania approved 2 of its first 40. In North Carolina, the NCWorks Commission certified 43 programs at 16 community colleges in the state's first submission cycle, and those are now awaiting federal review. The programs that are winning approval are not the ones with the best brochures — they are the ones that can already produce completion and placement evidence.

9 of 20	2 of 40	43
IOWA	PENNSYLVANIA	APPROVED · NORTH CAROLINA

Why the data bar filters out most programs

The 70% completion and 70% job placement thresholds are tested before you ever get approved — using your program's existing data from the 12 months before you apply — and re-verified every year after. Institutions that never built program-level outcome tracking for short-term and noncredit programs (most, historically) cannot even fill out the application credibly. That is the gap this playbook helps you close.

State figures: Opportunity Data implementation tracker and state announcements, retrieved August 28, 2026. These change weekly — confirm current numbers before citing them.

How a program gets approved: three gates

Every Workforce Pell program passes through three gates, in order. Each gate wants different evidence.

GATE 1

Institution

Structure and eligibility: hours, weeks, accreditation, credential, credit.

GATE 2

Governor

Labor market alignment, employer demand, credential quality, credit connection.

GATE 3

U.S. Secretary of Education

Verification of the 70% completion and 70% placement thresholds.

Gate 1 — Your program's structure (federal, non-negotiable)

Before anyone reviews outcomes, the program must fit the box: 150–599 clock hours, 8 to <15 weeks, accredited institution, offered for at least 12 months, correct modality, credential and credit requirements met. These are bright-line rules — there is no appeal to quality or mission.

EVIDENCE YOU'LL NEED

An hour-by-hour program map (clock hours and weeks), accreditor documentation showing the program falls within your accreditation, proof of the program's 12-month operating history, and articulation documentation showing the program earns credit toward a certificate or degree.

Gate 2 — Your governor (state, judgment call)

The governor — consulting with the state workforce board — must approve the program against four criteria, through a written, publicly published process:

Labor market alignment

The program prepares people for high-skill, high-wage jobs (as defined in Perkins, the federal career-and-technical-education law) or in-demand industry sectors (as defined in WIOA, the federal workforce law). Practically: your program's occupation must map to a list your state publishes.

Employer demand

The program meets the actual hiring requirements of employers — states want direct employer input, letters, or hiring commitments, not just labor-market statistics.

Credential quality

The credential is recognized, stackable, and portable across employers — or is the one credential the occupation requires (think CDL).

Credit connection

Completing the program earns academic credit toward a certificate or degree at one or more institutions — documented in written agreements.

The governor also verifies your completion and placement rates using state data, then sends a formal certification to the U.S. Secretary of Education. Approval must be renewed before your institution's Program Participation Agreement (its master Title IV contract with ED) expires.

Every state runs this differently

Some states make colleges apply program-by-program (Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota). Some pre-identify eligible programs from state frameworks (Louisiana, Florida). Some are running small pilot cohorts first (Idaho, Indiana, Rhode Island). Occupation lists range from 19 occupations (Pennsylvania) to 434 (Colorado). Your first research task is your own state's published process.

19
OCCUPATIONS · PENNSYLVANIA

434
OCCUPATIONS · COLORADO

Gate 3 — The U.S. Secretary of Education (federal, data-driven)

After the governor certifies, the Secretary confirms the structural requirements and — critically — verifies that the program met both outcome thresholds (70% completion, 70% job placement) for the 12 months preceding the application. Institutions apply through ED's Partner Connect system (open since July 1, 2026), attaching accreditor documentation and the governor's certification.

Approval is not one-and-done: the program must keep hitting the thresholds every year, reported annually, or it loses eligibility.

SECTION 04

The three numbers that decide everything

Strip away the regulatory language and Workforce Pell eligibility comes down to three numbers. Here is each one in plain English — what it measures, how the math works, and exactly what data you need to prove it.

70%

COMPLETION RATE

Within 150% of normal program length. Measured annually, per program.

70%

JOB PLACEMENT RATE

Employed in the second calendar quarter after exit.

T ≤ VAE

THE PRICE CAP

Tuition and fees may not exceed value-added earnings.

NUMBER 1

70% completion rate

Plain English: out of everyone who starts your program, at least 7 in 10 must finish it — within 150% of the program's normal length. If your program is 10 weeks, students have 15 weeks to finish and still count.

WORKED EXAMPLE

100 students enroll in your 10-week phlebotomy program this award year. To stay eligible, at least 70 must complete within 15 weeks of starting. 68 completers = ineligible. There is no partial credit.

70 completers of 100 — eligible

68 completers of 100 — ineligible

Measured: annually, per program. Certain student categories are excluded from both the numerator and the denominator.

COHORT EXCLUSIONS (§690.94(E))

Students are excluded from both the completion-rate and placement-rate calculations if they die, experience a medical condition that prevents employment, are ordered into uniformed service, or become incarcerated — except students in a qualifying Prison Education Program, who are not excluded and remain in the cohort.

Data you need for this number

- [ ] Program-level enrollment records with each student's start date and expected end date — for every enrollee, not just completers.
- [ ] A defined "normal time to completion" for the program, documented, so the 150% window is computable per student.
- [ ] Completion / credential-conferral dates captured in a system of record (not a spreadsheet someone updates at year end).
- [ ] Withdrawal, transfer, and leave-of-absence tracking with dates and reasons — so legitimate exclusions can be documented and defended.

NUMBER 2

70% job placement rate

Plain English: of the students who finish, at least 7 in 10 must be employed shortly after — specifically, employed during the second calendar quarter after they exit the program (roughly 3–6 months out). Through the 2020s this counts any employment; starting with the 2029–30 measurement, it tightens to employment in the occupation the program trained them for.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Your 70 phlebotomy completers exit in March. The second quarter after exit is July–September. At least 49 of the 70 must show up as employed during that quarter. From 2029–30, they will need to show up as employed in a healthcare occupation the program maps to — which means occupation data, not just a paycheck.

Who verifies it: during the interim years (2026 through roughly 2030), states verify placement using their own administrative data — usually unemployment insurance (UI) wage records, the payroll data employers report to the state every quarter. This is why the governor's office, not ED, is your first data counterparty.

Measured as employment during the second calendar quarter after program exit, per §690.94(a)(2); in-field matching begins with the 2029–30 award year.

WATCH OUT

Graduates who go straight into more school

Here is a counterintuitive risk. Completers who immediately re-enroll in another program are excluded from the earnings (VAE) calculation — but they are still counted in the placement-rate denominator. A completer who enrolls in a degree program instead of taking a job can count against your 70% placement rate. If your program is designed as a stackable on-ramp to a degree — exactly what the law says it wants — track continuing-education outcomes separately, and count them as employed-and-enrolled where your state's verification process allows, so this does not quietly erode your placement number.

Data you need for the placement rate

- [ ] A completer list per award year submitted to the governor — names, identifiers, exit dates. This is an explicit regulatory duty of the institution.
- [ ] Student identifiers that can be matched to state wage records (typically SSNs), collected and handled under a documented privacy protocol.
- [ ] Employment outcomes you can independently verify — employer name, hire date, and position — for graduates the wage match misses (multi-state moves, gig work, federal or military employment).
- [ ] Occupation coding (SOC codes) for each placement — not required for the interim any-job measure, but essential the moment in-field placement kicks in. States are already expanding UI records to capture it. Start now.
- [ ] A repeatable graduate follow-up process at the second quarter after exit (survey + verification), so you are not reconstructing outcomes 18 months later.

THE MEASUREMENT WINDOW

Exit

Student completes the program. Example: March.

Quarter 1

April–June. Not measured.

Quarter 2 — measured

July–September. At least 70% must be employed during this quarter.

From 2029–30

Employment must be in the trained-for occupation (SOC-coded).

NUMBER 3

T ≤ VAE tuition ≤ value-added earnings

Plain English: the program has to be worth it, in dollars. ED will calculate your completers' typical earnings three years after finishing, subtract 150% of the federal poverty line for a single person (that's the "you'd have earned something anyway" baseline — about $22,590 using the 2024 guideline), and adjust for regional cost of living. What is left is the program's "value-added earnings" (VAE). Your published tuition and fees may not exceed that number. If VAE is zero or negative, the program is ineligible — full stop.

WORKED EXAMPLE · ILLUSTRATIVE, 2024 GUIDELINE

$38,000	–	$22,590	=	$15,410
MEDIAN EARNINGS, YR 3		POVERTY-LINE BASELINE		YOUR TUITION CEILING

Three years after completing, your program's completers earn a median of $38,000. Subtract the ~$22,590 baseline → VAE ≈ $15,410. Your tuition and fees must be at or below $15,410. Most community college short-term programs clear this easily; high-priced programs with modest wage outcomes will not.

The baseline is not a fixed number: §690.95(b) sets it at 150% of the federal poverty guideline for a single individual in the tax year each cohort's earnings are measured, so it moves by cohort and year.

The timeline mercy

VAE does not bite immediately. ED calculates it once enough completer cohorts exist — the first calculation applies to the 2030–31 award year, using earnings measured three years after completion (ED takes the cohort that completed three award years earlier and looks up their most recent tax-year earnings). During the interim, governors may use state UI data at their discretion. ED does the math using a federal earnings-data match; you do not calculate VAE yourself — but you live with the result.

Small programs get pooled

The floor is 30 completers (§690.95(h)) — down from the 50 floated during December 2025 negotiated rulemaking. If a completer cohort is smaller than that, ED pools completers who share your program's 6-digit CIP code across earlier award years until it reaches 30. Small-but-mighty programs are not exempt — they are just measured on a longer memory, which makes consistent year-over-year outcomes matter even more.

THE TRAP INSIDE VAE

CIP-code pooling

ED pools completers from all of an institution's eligible workforce programs that share the same 6-digit CIP code (the federal taxonomy code that classifies what subject a program teaches). Translation: if you run three medical-assisting variants under one CIP code, they get one shared earnings number. One weak program can drag down its siblings. Audit your CIP assignments now — miscoded programs are a silent risk.

Data you need for this number

- [ ] Published tuition and fees per program, reported to ED through its designated process, and internally version-controlled — the cap applies to what you publish.
- [ ] Accurate 6-digit CIP code assignments for every eligible program, reviewed against what you actually teach.
- [ ] Completer identifiers sufficient for the federal earnings match, plus enrollment records that show whether a completer re-enrolled elsewhere (re-enrolled students are excluded from the earnings cohort — a favorable change in the final rule).
- [ ] An internal pro-forma VAE estimate using state wage data — so a pricing problem surfaces in 2027, not in a 2031 ineligibility letter with an assessed liability attached.

The compliance calendar: what is measured when

Workforce Pell phases in over five years. Knowing what bites when tells you what to build first.

WHEN	WHAT HAPPENS	WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU
July 2025	Workforce Pell signed into law in the Working Families Tax Cuts Act.	The statute sets the 70/70/VAE framework.
May 18–19, 2026	ED announces and publishes the final rule.	The operating manual exists. Negotiated rulemaking ran Dec 2025–spring 2026; 500+ public comments.
July 1, 2026	Program goes live (early implementation). Partner Connect opens for institutional applications.	You can apply as soon as your governor certifies. Standard effective date for the provisions: July 20, 2026.
Aug 2026	First federal approvals: Iowa Central EMT (Aug 4), Ivy Tech Clinical Medical Assistant (Aug 19). NC approves 43 programs at the state level.	The process demonstrably works — and the queue is forming.
2026–27 award year	COD (ED's disbursement system) adds a "Workforce Pell Eligible" flag and a "Workforce Pell Tuition and Fees" disbursement tag; mismatches trigger Warning Edit 230. FAAs certify enrollment via the DDE file.	Your financial aid office has new operational plumbing. Loop them in early.
Every year, ongoing	Institution submits completer lists and placement-verification data to the governor; 70/70 thresholds re-verified annually.	Outcome tracking is now a permanent annual production, like IPEDS — not a one-time application exhibit.
2029–30	Placement measure tightens to employment in the trained-for occupation (per JFF analysis).	SOC-coded placement data stops being optional.
2030–31 award year	First federal VAE calculation takes effect (ED finalizes the underlying calculation during the 2029–30 cycle); tuition cap enforced with liabilities for failure.	Earnings three years back — i.e., your 2027–28 completers — determine the result. The cohort that decides your 2031 fate is enrolling now.

SECTION 06

The master data checklist

Everything above, consolidated into one build list. Print it and work it with your workforce, financial aid, and institutional research teams in the room.

A Evidence to win approval (Gates 1–3)

- [ ] Program map: clock hours (150–599), weeks (8 to <15), delivery calendar, modality.
- [ ] Accreditor documentation covering the program.
- [ ] Proof of 12+ months of program operation meeting the requirements.
- [ ] Occupation mapping to your state's high-skill / high-wage / in-demand list (SOC codes).
- [ ] Employer demand evidence: letters, hiring commitments, advisory-board minutes, job postings.
- [ ] Credential documentation: name, issuer, industry recognition, stackability/portability map.
- [ ] Written articulation agreements showing academic credit toward a certificate or degree.
- [ ] Trailing-12-month completion and placement rates, computed and defensible (see B and C).

B Completion data

ANNUAL, FOREVER

- [ ] Program-level enrollment roster: every student, start date, expected completion date.
- [ ] Documented normal time to completion and per-student 150% window.
- [ ] Credential-conferral dates in a system of record.
- [ ] Withdrawal/transfer/LOA tracking with dates, reasons, and exclusion documentation.

C Placement data

ANNUAL, FOREVER

- [ ] Completer list per award year, formatted for submission to the governor.
- [ ] Match-ready student identifiers (SSNs) with a privacy and consent protocol.
- [ ] Second-quarter-after-exit employment follow-up process (wage match + survey + employer verification for the gaps).
- [ ] SOC occupation codes on every placement record — future-proofing for the in-field measure.

D Earnings & pricing data

THE 2030 CLOCK

- [ ] Published tuition & fees per program, reported to ED, with change control.
- [ ] CIP code audit across all current and planned eligible programs.
- [ ] Re-enrollment status on completers (exclusion evidence for the earnings cohort).
- [ ] Internal pro-forma VAE estimate per program, refreshed annually with state wage data.

E Operational plumbing

FINANCIAL AID & AUDIT

- [ ] COD configuration: Workforce Pell Eligible flag + Tuition and Fees disbursement tag (watch Warning Edit 230).
- [ ] FAA enrollment certification workflow via the DDE file.
- [ ] Timestamped audit trail on all of the above — who recorded what, when. Governors and ED can both come asking.

SECTION 07

What happens if you miss

The accountability regime has real teeth, and the penalties compound:

> **Miss the 70% completion or placement threshold:** the program becomes ineligible at the end of the payment period after ED's determination (limited appeal circumstances exist).

> **Fail the VAE tuition cap:** the program becomes ineligible for the award year after the VAE release — and ED assesses a financial liability against the institution.

> **Lose governor approval:** ineligibility at the end of the payment period after withdrawal.

> **The lockout:** a program that loses eligibility cannot be reestablished for two years. In a competitive regional market, a two-year absence from grant-funded training is a gift to the institution across town.

THE STRATEGIC READ

Approval is a moat as much as a mandate. Programs that build reliable outcome data get in early, stay in continuously, and market "grant-funded, proven outcomes" while competitors sit out the lockout. The institutions treating Workforce Pell as a data infrastructure project — not a paperwork exercise — are the ones compounding the advantage.

SECTION 08

Readiness scorecard: 10 questions

Score one point for every "yes." Be honest — the governor's office will be.

#	QUESTION	YES / NO
1	Can you produce program-level enrollment and completion data for the last 12 months for every short-term program you would nominate?	☐ ☐
2	Is "normal time to completion" formally documented for each of those programs?	☐ ☐
3	Do you know your actual completion rate — computed with the 150% window — for each program? Is it ≥70%?	☐ ☐
4	Can you show where your completers were employed in the second quarter after exit — and is that rate ≥70%?	☐ ☐
5	Do you have a working relationship (and data path) with the state office running your governor's approval process?	☐ ☐
6	Do your target programs map to occupations on your state's high-skill / high-wage / in-demand list?	☐ ☐
7	Do you hold written employer demand evidence and articulation agreements for each target program?	☐ ☐
8	Are your CIP codes audited and is tuition ≤ your own pro-forma VAE estimate?	☐ ☐
9	Has your financial aid office scoped the COD flag, disbursement tag, and DDE certification workflow?	☐ ☐
10	Could you regenerate all of the above next year without heroics — i.e., does it live in a system, not a spreadsheet?	☐ ☐

8–10

You are application-ready. Move now — early approvals are compounding advantages.

5–7

Fixable gaps. The 90-day plan below is written for you.

0–4

Start with the data foundation before the application. The good news: the interim years give you runway, and every piece you build is required infrastructure anyway.

SECTION 09

Your first 90 days

Days 1–30

INVENTORY AND TRIAGE

- [ ] Pull your state's published Workforce Pell approval process, occupation list, and submission calendar.
- [ ] Inventory every program in the 150–599 clock-hour / 8–15 week box (or adaptable into it).
- [ ] Compute trailing-12-month completion rates for each candidate program. Kill or fix the ones under 70% before they are on an application.
- [ ] Run the 10-question scorecard with workforce, financial aid, and IR in the same room.

Days 31–60

BUILD THE EVIDENCE

- [ ] Stand up second-quarter-after-exit placement verification for your most recent completer cohorts (state wage match request + graduate outreach for gaps).
- [ ] Collect employer demand documentation and formalize articulation agreements.
- [ ] Audit CIP codes; draft a pro-forma VAE estimate per program using state wage data.
- [ ] Open the conversation with your governor's designated approval office — get on their radar and their timeline.

Days 61–90

SUBMIT AND SYSTEMATIZE

- [ ] Assemble the governor's evidence package for your strongest 1–3 programs. Depth beats breadth: states are visibly rejecting thin applications.
- [ ] Prepare the Partner Connect application materials (accreditor documentation + governor certification) so federal submission follows state approval within days.
- [ ] Move outcome tracking off spreadsheets and into a system with an audit trail — this is annual, permanent reporting now.
- [ ] Calendar the recurring obligations: annual completer list to the governor, annual rate verification, tuition & fee reporting.

The data problem is the product problem we built for

Everything in this playbook reduces to one operational challenge: capturing learner, program, and employment data continuously — in a form regulators will accept — without hiring a compliance department to do it. That is the exact problem Craft has spent years solving for apprenticeships and work-based learning, where funder-grade reporting has always been the price of admission.

Craft Connect gives institutions and their employer partners one system of record for the data Workforce Pell runs on:

WORKFORCE PELL REQUIRES	CRAFT CONNECT DELIVERS
Program-level enrollment, hours, and completion tracking (the 70% completion proof)	Structured tracking of every learner's hours, milestones, and competency sign-offs against the program schedule — 10M+ labor hours logged to date.
Verified employment outcomes with employer participation (the 70% placement proof)	Employer-connected workflows: mentors and supervisors are in the system, so employment and progression data comes from the source instead of chasing graduates.
Annual, audit-ready reporting to governors and ED	Funder-grade, timestamped records exportable on demand — "audit-ready by default, not by deadline."
Credit articulation and credential documentation	Purpose-built infrastructure for connecting work-based learning to academic credit — the same rails behind Craft's apprenticeship-degree programs.
Braided funding compliance (Workforce Pell alongside WIOA, Perkins, and state funds)	Documentation aligned to multiple funding streams simultaneously, so one program can prove compliance to every funder that touches it.

WHAT COMES NEXT

Ready for better on-the-job training data?

1. Book a call with our sales team (intro & discovery).
2. We'll analyze with our services experts.
3. Proposal, Implementation, and Beyond!

Book a Call | crafteducation.com/schedule

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

crafteducation.com/resources

Sources

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Federal Register — final rule, "Accountability in Higher Education and Access Through Demand-Driven Workforce Pell" (May 19, 2026): federalregister.gov/documents/2026/05/19/2026-10013

ED — Workforce Pell final rule fact sheet (PDF): ed.gov/media/document/workforce-pell-grant-final-rule-fact-sheet-114075.pdf

Federal Student Aid — "Federal Pell Grant Updates and Eligible Workforce Programs" (March 2026 operational guidance PDF): fsapartners.ed.gov

ED — first program approval, Iowa Central EMT (Aug 4, 2026): ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-approves-nations-first-workforce-pell-grant-program-iowa

Inside Higher Ed — ED projections: ~184,000 recipients in 2027–28; 28,000 potentially eligible programs; $3.2B/10yr (May 28, 2026): insidehighered.com

Higher Ed Dive — final rule analysis, incl. VAE poverty-line figure and Q2 placement definition: highereddive.com/news/education-department-final-rule-workforce-pell/820543/

Jobs for the Future — Workforce Pell Implementation road map & quality metrics: jff.org/idea/workforce-pell-implementation/quality-metrics/

Opportunity Data — Workforce Pell by State: 2026 Implementation Tracker (updated Aug 24, 2026): opportunitydata.org/workforce-pell-readiness.html

Community College Daily — "The data part of Workforce Pell" (May 2026): ccdaily.com

ED / AHEAD — "Calculation of a Federal Pell Grant for an Eligible Workforce Program" (Dec 2025): ed.gov/media/document/2025-ahead-calculation-of-federal-pell-grant-eligible-workforce-program-112683.pdf

Congressional Research Service — "Workforce Pell Grants" (IF13253), incl. VAE cohort timing and the 30-completer minimum.

American Council on Education — "Summary: OBBB Final Workforce Pell Rule": acenet.edu/Documents/Summary-OBBB-Final-Workforce-Pell-Rule.pdf

Craft Education — product capabilities and Workforce Pell positioning: crafteducation.com

Companion asset: Craft Education webinar, "Understanding Workforce Pell for Talent Pipelines" (May 20, 2026), featuring Wesley Whistle (New America), Rafael Castaneda (Kaplan), and Bill McKinney (TPMA).