Workforce Pell for Advising Offices

Since July 1, 2026, federal Pell Grants fund short career training: programs of 8 to 15 weeks and 150 to 599 clock hours that lead to a recognized credential. It is grant money, not a loan. This guide covers what to tell students and which programs the funding works in today, compiled from U.S. Department of Education announcements, state agency rosters, and each college's own site.

30
programs where the grant works today

7
states with federally approved programs

100+
more programs state-approved, awaiting federal sign-off

Four things to tell students

→ **It is a grant, and there is no separate application.** Students file the FAFSA at studentaid.gov, the same free form as any Pell Grant, then enroll in an approved program; the college's financial aid office confirms eligibility and the award. A student who completes the program repays nothing. Anyone charging a fee to apply is running a scam.

→ **There is no income cutoff.** The FAFSA's Student Aid Index sets the award: the lower the number, the larger the grant, prorated to program length. Working adults often assume they earn too much and are wrong. The Federal Student Aid Estimator at studentaid.gov gives a free estimate in about ten minutes.

→ **A bachelor's degree no longer disqualifies.** Traditional Pell ends at the bachelor's degree; Workforce Pell removed that restriction for qualifying short-term programs. Degree holders retraining into healthcare, the trades, or IT may qualify, which makes this relevant to career changers, not only recent graduates.

→ **The list is growing fast.** Six states hold federally approved programs today, over 100 more programs are state-approved and awaiting federal sign-off, and 36 jurisdictions have an approval process operating. If a student's state is not on the back of this sheet, the live page tracks every state, and the local community college's aid office knows what has been submitted.

The live program list, with links to every college's program page and the map of state progress: opportunitydata.org/workforce-pell-for-students. Sources and state-by-state detail: opportunitydata.org/workforce-pell-readiness.html. Compiled by Opportunity Data, an independent research platform.

the live program list

Programs with funding available

As of November 5, 2026. Length, cost, and campus come from each college's own program page; “not posted” means the college's site does not state it. Costs are before any aid. Programs marked * are documented on an official state roster ahead of a U.S. Department of Education announcement.

State	Program	College	Length	Cost
IA	Emergency Medical Technician	Iowa Central Community College	not posted	not posted
IA	Emergency Medical Technician*	Des Moines Area Community College	About 165 hours	$2,359 total
IA	CNC Entry-Level Technician*	Eastern Iowa Community Colleges	15 weeks	$3,125
IA	Manufacturing Maintenance Technician*	Eastern Iowa Community Colleges	14 weeks	$5,125
IA	Residential HVAC Installer*	Eastern Iowa Community Colleges	not posted	not posted
IN	Clinical Medical Assistant	Ivy Tech Community College	8 to 9 weeks	$2,750 to $3,995, exam incl.
NE	CompTIA Tech+ with Google IT Support	Metropolitan Community College	not posted	not posted
NE	Pharmacy Technician	Metropolitan Community College	not posted	$2,154
NE	Phlebotomy Technician	Metropolitan Community College	not posted	$2,250 + $117 exam
TX	Advanced Machining	Weatherford College	not posted	not posted
TX	Basic Machining	Weatherford College	not posted	not posted
TX	HVAC	Weatherford College	not posted	not posted
TX	Electrical Power Lineman	Kilgore College	10 weeks	not posted
TX	Pharmacy Technician	Kilgore College	not posted	$1,842
TX	Phlebotomy Technician	Kilgore College	12 weeks, 200 hours	$875, exam incl.
TX	Pharmacy Technician*	Central Texas College	not posted	not posted
TX	Phlebotomy Technician*	San Jacinto College	3 months	not posted
TX	Structural Welding (SMAW)*	Texas Southmost College	not posted	not posted
NC	Electrical Lineworker	Forsyth Technical Community College	8 weeks	$381 + $70 orientation
NC	Emergency Medical Technician (Basic)	Forsyth Technical Community College	12 to 16 weeks	not posted
NC	Fire Academy	Forsyth Technical Community College	24 weeks	not posted
NC	Nursing Assistant	Forsyth Technical Community College	6 to 8 weeks	$255 reg. + fees
NC	Nursing Assistant II	Forsyth Technical Community College	8 weeks, 160 hours	$253 reg. + fees
NC	Welding Industrial	Forsyth Technical Community College	14 weeks	$290
NC	Emergency Medical Technician (Basic)*	Wake Technical Community College	Four months or less	$180 reg. + fees
FL	Basic Correction Officer	Eastern Florida State College	13 weeks, 445 hours	About $2,500
FL	Crossover to Correction Officer	Eastern Florida State College	223 hours, part-time	About $581
FL	EMT (Pell from summer 2027)	Eastern Florida State College	One semester	About $2,400
FL	Firefighter (Pell from spring 2027)	Eastern Florida State College	3 months, 492 hours	About $2,600
AZ	Phlebotomy Technician	Pima Medical Institute	About 3 months	$5,623 total

The live version of this table, updated as approvals post, with links to each college's program page: opportunitydata.org/workforce-pell-for-students