



Education | Healthcare | Public Services

Workforce Pell: AFT State Affiliate Checklist

Workforce Pell (often called Short-Term Pell) is a major expansion of the federal Pell Grant program. It went into effect on July 1, 2026. This expansion opens federal grant money to students pursuing short, intensive, career-focused training programs—such as programs to earn healthcare credentials or programs in advanced manufacturing—that prepare students for high-skill, high-wage or in-demand occupations.

This checklist serves as a guide to learn how Workforce Pell grants are already being implemented in the states, and how your union can leverage these grants to create career pathways for in-demand careers that pay a sustainable wage.

Contact Kate Salasky at ksalasky@aft.org for more information.

AFT Important Contacts

AFT staff are available to support affiliates throughout Workforce Pell implementation by providing policy guidance, technical assistance, resources and opportunities to collaborate.

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Workforce Pell Success Checklist

Task	Completed
1. Learn about Workforce Pell federal standards and procedures.	☐
2. Identify and contact state officials such as the governor, workforce board members, etc.	☐
3. Learn about your state's implementation of Workforce Pell.	☐
4. List and contact postsecondary institutions regarding Workforce Pell.	☐
5. Identify and contact your state's workforce board(s) regarding apprenticeships and labor unions that qualify for Workforce Pell.	☐
6. Research upcoming apprenticeships in your state using the Apprenticeship.gov "shot-clock" table.	☐
7. Create an action plan on how to address Workforce Pell with your local and state members, including ensuring that training and instruction work remains in the bargaining unit.	☐
8. Update and share resources with your AFT state affiliate about the Workforce Pell action plan.	☐
9. Reach out to AFT national staff for additional support regarding Workforce Pell.	☐