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Workforce Pell Advisory Group Meeting

Agenda

June 17, 2026

1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

[Microsoft Teams](#)

Agenda in Brief

1. Definitions
2. Program Application Approval Process
3. Web Page and Next Meetings

Detailed Agenda

1. Review Definitions

- a. High-Skill Occupations are those:
 - i. having typical education needed for entry higher than a high school diploma or equivalent or
 - ii. having typical education needed for entry equal to a high school diploma or equivalent and typical on-the-job training of moderate-term on-the-job training, long-term on-the-job training, apprenticeship, or internship/residency.
- b. High Wage sectors and occupations:
 - i. have a median wage that is greater than or equal to the median wage across all occupations within the state.
- c. In-Demand sectors and occupations have two criteria, we need to make a decision whether we go with AND – both criteria are met – or with OR – either criteria is met.
 - i. Projected annual openings are greater than or equal to the openings of at least 75 percent of all occupations (i.e., in the top 25th percentile for openings) for the MSA or workforce region.
 - ii. The projected percentage growth of employment in the occupation is higher than or equal to the average percentage growth for all occupations in the area.
 - iii. The worksheet to be discussed shows the effect of using OR instead of AND for these criteria.

2. Draft of Program Application Approval Process -- --

- a. The following steps define the approval process:
 - i. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) submit an application on an approved application form to propose one of their programs be considered for Workforce Pell

- ii. HED and DWS staff review the application to determine that all required components are included.
- iii. If staff determines the application meets the requirements, it is presented for consultation with a workforce committee with representation from industry and higher education organizations (namely the Education and Workforce Committee of the State Workforce Development Board (SWDB)), as a proxy for the full SWDB.
- iv. During the consultation, the SWDB Education and Workforce Committee reviews raises questions, concerns, or a need for further information, or indicates there are no issues to raise with the application.
- v. Following the consultation with the SWDB Education and Workforce Committee, the proposal is considered by the Governor, or her designees (Secretaries of HED and DWS) for final state approval.
- vi. The final approval is provided by the U.S. Department of Education.
- b. During any step in the above process, an application might be sent back to the institution as either ineligible or for a request for more information.

3. **Updated web page** available at:

- a. <https://hed.nm.gov/resources-for-schools/workforce-pell-advisory-group>
- b. Also, this page has lots of useful information: <https://workforcepelldata.org/>

4. **Next Steps**

- a. Currently, the state's Workforce GRO program is providing excellent support for short-term training programs, but the language in the Workforce GRO allocation precludes its use for programs eligible for other forms of financial aid, such as Workforce Pell.
- b. This has made it challenging to find eligible programs for a pilot.
- c. Going forward, we're going to:
 - i. Work to reauthorize Workforce GRO beyond FY27 with a provision that would allow HEIs to access it and be eligible for Workforce Pell.
 - ii. Prepare a complete draft of state definitions, procedures, and application forms for Workforce Pell.
 - iii. Suspend meetings of this committee until that complete draft is available (late July, early to mid-August) and then reconvene to discuss and finalize the Workforce Pell plan for New Mexico.
 - iv. Open up applications for Workforce Pell to all eligible institutions in New Mexico.