

NMHED WORKFORCE PELL WEBINAR 1

September 8, 2026

Moderated by Director Dina Advani and Dr. Brit Gallegos

Please remain on "mute" until Q&A at 2:25 p.m.

WHAT IS WORKFORCE PELL?

Enacted July 4, 2025, through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), Workforce Pell expands federal Pell Grant eligibility to eligible short-term workforce training programs.

Program Goals

- Expand access to short-term, career-focused education and training
- Help students gain skills and credentials for high-demand occupations
- Make eligible workforce programs more affordable and accessible
- Support workforce needs in fields such as health care, manufacturing, IT, and skilled trades

Student Benefits

Students can receive prorated amounts from the maximum Pell award (currently \$7,395, adjusted annually). There is no repayment required, and eligibility for stackable credentials can lead to further education.

FEDERAL LAW PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

PROGRAM LENGTH

- 8 to less than 15 weeks
- 150–599 clock hours (or equivalent credit hours)
- Semester hours: 6-23 credit hours
- Quarter hours: 9-35 credit hours

GOVERNORS, IN CONSULTATION WITH STATE WORKFORCE BOARDS, APPROVE PROGRAMS THAT:

- **Have existed in their current form for at least one year**
- Prepare students for high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand occupations or sectors;
- Align with employer hiring needs;
- Lead to stable and portable recognized postsecondary credentials or credentials required for employment;
- Provide pathways into future certificate or degree programs through transferable academic credit
- Provide at least 75% of instruction at the higher education institution, while 25% may be contracted out

THE U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION DETERMINES FINAL ELIGIBILITY BY REVIEWING:

- Program completion and job outcomes; and
- A value-added earnings measure comparing program tuition and fees to graduate earnings outcomes

WORKFORCE DEFINITIONS

High-Skill Occupations

- Occupations that have a typical education needed for entry higher than a high school diploma or equivalent; or
- Occupations that have a 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

High-Wage Occupations

- Occupations with a median wage that is greater than or equal to the median wage across all occupations within the state.

High-Wage Sectors

- Industries at the two- or three-digit industry (NAICS) code that have an average weekly wage that is greater than or equal to the average weekly wage across all industries within the state.

In-Demand Occupations

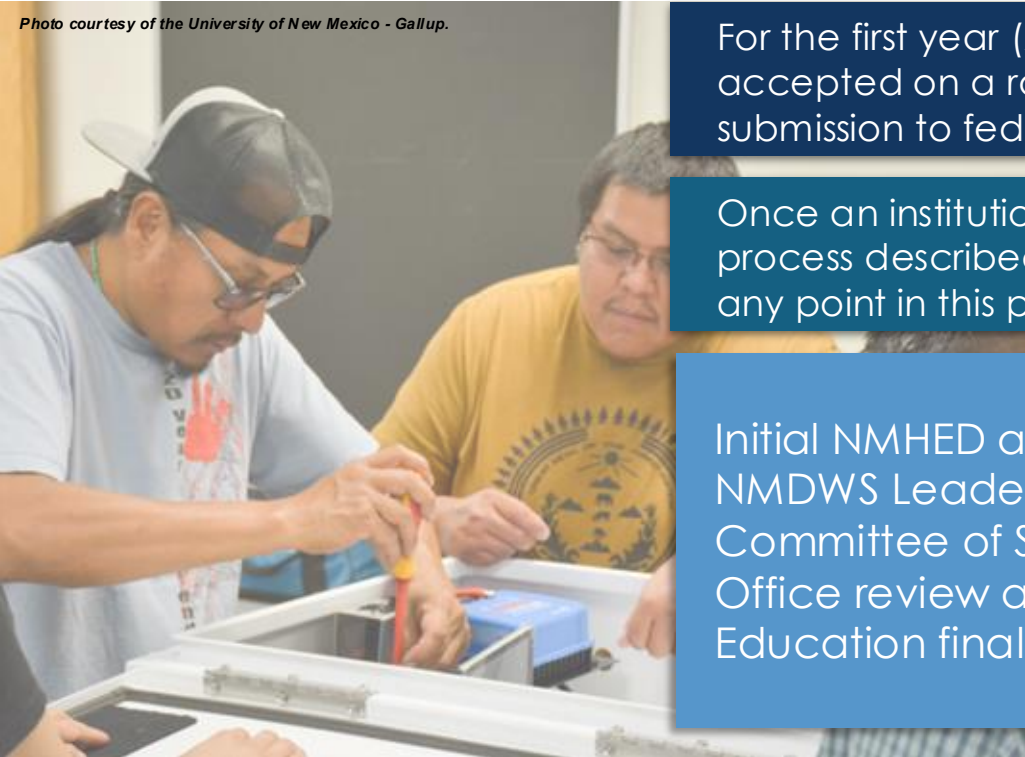
- Occupations that have projected annual openings greater than or equal to the openings of at least 75 percent of all occupations (top 25th percentile for openings) for the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or workforce region, and that have a projected percentage growth of employment that is higher than or equal to the average percentage growth for all occupations in the area.

In-Demand Sectors

- Priority sectors that are identified in the New Mexico Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) state plan or identified as a Regional Priority in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Community Local Needs Assessments (CLNA).

NEW MEXICO PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Photo courtesy of the University of New Mexico - Gallup.



For the first year (AY 2026-2027), applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. The full process from application submission to federal approval may take several months.

Once an institution submits an application, it will follow the process described below. An application may be denied at any point in this process:

Initial NMHED and NMDWS staff review → NMHED and NMDWS Leadership review → Workforce Pell Committee of State Workforce Board → Governor's Office review and approve → U.S. Department of Education final review and approval.

WEBSITE AND APPLICATION WALKTHROUGH

NM WORKFORCE PELL WEBSITE

<https://hed.nm.gov/resources-for-schools/nm-workforce-pell-application>



NM WORKFORCE PELL APPLICATION (PDF VERSION) **NOT TO SUBMIT**

https://hed.nm.gov/uploads/documents/WFP_Application.pdf



TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

Create an account in the New Mexico Academic Affairs Online Portal.

To register:

Click "request account"

Required information: First name, last name, email, phone, password, confirm

Wait for NMHED approval to proceed

The account should be made for the person submitting the application - never on behalf of another person

DATA AND OUTCOMES REPORTING

TRACK

COMPLETION, CREDENTIALS, ENROLLMENT

CONNECT

- EDUCATION TO WORKFORCE OUTCOMES
- PROGRAM OCCUPATIONS

MEASURE

- PLACEMENT RATES
- EARNING OUTCOMES
- RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI)

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH/DATA

CHANGES

- Workforce Pell programs must be flagged
- Federal reporting requires data alignment across offices
- Completion timing matters

WORKFLOW ADJUSTMENTS

- Establish cohort definitions
- Match enrollment, awards/disbursements, and completion data
- Validate DEAR and federal submissions

A woman with glasses and a blue work shirt stands with her arms crossed in a workshop. In the background, a car is on a lift, and various tools and equipment are visible.

Data Doesn't End With the Application

Institutions approved for Workforce Pell will have ongoing reporting responsibilities.

For-credit Workforce Pell students

- Continue to report students through applicable eDEAR files.
- Report the Workforce Pell award in the Student Financial Aid file using the designated award code.

Students exclusively in noncredit Workforce Pell programs

- Different reporting requirements apply to exclusively noncredit students.
- NMHED will provide a secure process when SSNs are needed for wage matching.

Important: Student SSNs should never be submitted through email or the Academic Affairs and Policy Portal.

Before You Submit

Before submitting a program, make sure you can:

- ✓ Identify the appropriate cohort
- ✓ Calculate and document completion
- ✓ Calculate and document placement
- ✓ Identify the number of program completers
- ✓ Provide the information requested in the application
- ✓ Support ongoing state and federal reporting requirements

Q&A

Please write your question in the chat **with your email address.**

Then, press “raise hand” if you’d like to verbalize your question. We will answer those who unmute and are in the chat.

After the webinar, we will go through each question in the chat. If a question was not answered, NMHED staff will email with an answer.

Let us know if there are topics or discussions you would like covered in the next webinar that were not covered today.



Thank you!

Contact us:

Dina Advani
Director, Planning and Research
Division

Dina.Advani@hed.nm.gov

Dr. Brit Gallegos
Data Analyst
Academic Affairs and Policy Division

Brittany.Gallegos@hed.nm.gov

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