

What is Workforce Pell?

Launching in 2026, short-term Workforce Pell (WF Pell) training grants open the door for students to access federal Pell grant funding for high-quality, accelerated programs that lead directly to in-demand jobs. State governors are charged with coordinating an interagency process to designate short-term training programs as eligible to receive WF Pell funds. CTCs that wish to have new or existing programs designated to receive WF Pell may begin the process via SBCTC’s PAR portal. New programs may proceed with designation after one year of operation.

Data regarding performance measures in each WF Pell program will be confirmed at the state level by SBCTC during the verification process and ultimately monitored by Department of Education. Although this process is integrated into the PAR, it will require signature from an institutional Vice President of Instruction or equivalent due to these unique performance and monitoring expectation.

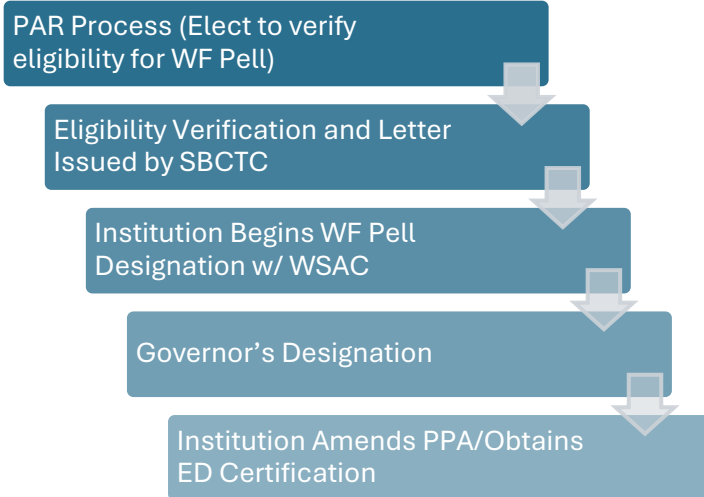
<u>Program Eligibility Requirements</u>	<u>Required Program Performance Measures</u>
▶ Recipient institutions must be Title IV eligible, with no program suspensions or emergency action in past five years. ▶ The designated WF Pell program must be at least 150 and less than 600 clock hours, offered over an 8-14 week period. Weeks do not need to be consecutive. ▶ The WF Pell program must be in operation at least one year before WF Pell Application. ▶ Demonstrating that the earned credential is stackable/articulate and portable (or is a single terminal credential). ▶ WF Pell programs must be aligned to one of 123 Occupations in Demand for WF Pell. ▶ Related technical instruction must be less than 25% of the program clock hours; less than 50% in the case of Registered Apprentices ▶ SBCTC is still awaiting guidance on eligibility of continuing education programs; more info to come after the pilot cycle.	▶ 70% completion rate (measured within 150% of the normal time to earn the credential) ▶ Program meets a 70% job placement rate (within two calendar quarters) ▶ In future years, a “value-added earnings” measure will be applied, but does not apply during the pilot year; additional guidance will be released in future years.

Pilot Year and Beyond

The Governor’s Office will be opening a pilot for the WF Pell Designation Process in November 2026 and anticipates making a first round of designations by the end of the year. Following discussion and refinement of the application and designation process, another cycle for WF Pell designations is anticipated in early 2027. Additional designation cycles are anticipated annually, although institutions may initiate the process to verify eligibility via the PAR when they wish to pursue WF Pell designation for a program.



Applying for Designation



All CTCs that pursue WF Pell designation for new or existing programs start with the WF Pell eligibility verification for their individual programs, which is newly integrated form inside the PAR Portal. SBCTC will issue an eligibility verification letter to the applicant institution, which is attached to the WF Pell designation application hosted at the WSAC website.

Following designation of the program by the Governor, institutions will work with WSAC directly to amend necessary agreements with the Department of Education to allow institutions to award WF Pell funds to programs.

Contact Information

For more information on Workforce Pell, please visit <https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/programs-services/student-services/workforce-pell.aspx>.

Or contact Eric Wolf, SBCTC WF Pell Implementation Contractor, at ewolf@sbctc.edu.