Workforce Pell FAQ: For Students

If you are interested in enrolling in a certificate program, you may be eligible for the newly expanded Pell Grant. Here is what you need to know:

What is Workforce Pell?
New this year, Pell-eligible students can receive a Workforce Pell Grant for short-term (150-599 clock hours; 8-14 weeks in length), career-focused training programs that lead to high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand credentials.

What programs can Workforce Pell be used toward?
Currently, no programs in MA, CA, and NY are approved to use Workforce Pell in their financial aid packages. Check in with your uAspire advisor throughout the year to see if any programs have been approved. If you don't have a uAspire advisor, check your state's Department of Education website to see if they have a list of approved programs.

Why aren't more programs approved?
Workforce Pell is new! Each program must be approved by the state governor and the U.S. Department of Education before it can use Workforce Pell for students' financial aid packages. We expect more programs to be approved throughout 26-27 and beyond.

How much Workforce Pell will I be eligible to receive?
Your eligibility will be based on your Student Aid Index (SAI), which you will receive after completing the FAFSA, and the length and intensity of your program.

What do I need to do to receive a Workforce Pell?
You must complete the FAFSA and be enrolled in a program that has been approved for Workforce Pell by your state and the U.S. Department of Education.

Will getting Workforce Pell impact my ability to get financial aid in the future?
Yes, each student has a limited amount of Pell Grant they can receive for school. Workforce Pell will count towards your lifetime Pell eligibility.