

Workforce Pell & Registered Apprenticeship State Implementation Update

National scan | Status as of September 14, 2026

Prepared as a board-ready reference separating the new 2026 Workforce Pell rollout from the established Registered Apprenticeship system and its 2026 state expansions.

Executive summary

Workforce Pell: The federal program became available July 1, 2026. As of the latest verified national scan (September 11), 35 U.S. jurisdictions had an operational state approval process, 15 were still building their process, and North Dakota and Wyoming had no verifiable public approval process. State approval is not the same as federal approval.

Federal approvals currently verified: Iowa Central Community College EMT; Des Moines Area Community College EMT (shown by Iowa as federally approved); and Ivy Tech Community College Clinical Medical Assistant in Indiana. State-approved rosters are much larger in several states but still require U.S. Department of Education approval before students can receive Workforce Pell for those programs.

Registered Apprenticeship: This is not a new 2026 federal program. Registered Apprenticeship is an established national system. Every state has an apprenticeship registration pathway, either through a federally administered Office of Apprenticeship (OA) model or a recognized State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA). The important 2026 story is expansion: new state governance, youth apprenticeship, healthcare, education and other sector initiatives.

1. Workforce Pell - national implementation

Status definitions used below: LIVE = an operational approval process, open/closed application window, pilot, or state list moving toward federal approval. IN PROGRESS = state action/lead agency identified but no operational approval pipeline yet. UNKNOWN = no verifiable public approval process located.

State / jurisdiction	Status	What has been implemented / current position	Official state website / portal
Alabama	LIVE	LIVE - program-by-program approval process; approved-program directory is to be published as approvals issue.	Open official state site
Arizona	LIVE	LIVE - first certification window closed Aug. 24; state vote/certification scheduled for Sept. 17.	Open official state site
Arkansas	LIVE	LIVE - application process active; extended window through Sept. 30.	Open official state site
Colorado	LIVE	LIVE - state application/certification process operational; first program window closed in August.	Open official state site
Delaware	LIVE	LIVE - state policy and institutional application launched Aug. 11.	Open official state site
District of Columbia	LIVE	LIVE - final policy posted Sept. 1; first-round applications due Sept. 30.	Open official state site
Florida	LIVE	LIVE - state published an inventory of 31 eligible programs; individual federal approvals still govern student access.	Open official state site
Georgia	LIVE	LIVE - institutional application open; approved-program list still TBA.	Open official state site
Idaho	LIVE	LIVE - pilot applications accepted; no public pilot approval registry posted yet.	Open official state site
Illinois	LIVE	LIVE - first-round application window closed Aug. 31; state review underway.	Open official state site
Indiana	LIVE	LIVE - pilot. Ivy Tech Clinical Medical Assistant (8 weeks) is federally approved; pilot initially limited to Ivy Tech and Vincennes.	Open official state site
Iowa	LIVE	LIVE - state roster published; 2 EMT programs shown federally approved. Other state-approved programs include CDL, CNC, HVAC, manufacturing maintenance and related short-term training.	Open official state site
Kentucky	LIVE	LIVE - online application established under emergency regulation.	Open official state site
Louisiana	LIVE	LIVE - state-originated Year 1 determination process; institutional submissions begin in a later award year.	Open official state site
Maine	LIVE	LIVE - first application cycle closed Sept. 11; state review follows.	Open official state site
Maryland	LIVE	LIVE - rolling applications; August determination list/count not publicly posted in latest verification.	Open official state site
Michigan	LIVE	LIVE - workforce board conditionally approved 37 of 42 first-window applications; final letters/program names had not been publicly posted in the latest verification.	Open official state site
Minnesota	LIVE	LIVE - first provider window closed; state review underway.	Open official state site
Mississippi	LIVE	LIVE - applications opened July 1; preliminary potentially eligible program information published.	Open official state site
Missouri	LIVE	LIVE - first institutional round closed Aug. 7; determinations not yet publicly posted.	Open official state site
Nebraska	LIVE	LIVE - portal open; four state-approved programs publicly highlighted: Class A CDL, phlebotomy	Open official state site

		technician, pharmacy technician, and CompTIA Tech+ with Google IT Support; federal approval pending.	
Nevada	LIVE	LIVE - Phase 1 open for Nevada System of Higher Education institutions; approved-program placeholder remains.	Open official state site
New Jersey	LIVE	LIVE - one-program pilot submitted/recommended to ED: Rowan College of South Jersey-Gloucester patient care technician; federal approval pending.	Open official state site
New Mexico	LIVE	LIVE - rolling applications through NMHED; approved list forthcoming.	Open official state site
New York	LIVE	LIVE - rolling institutional applications opened Aug. 24; monthly advisory review.	Open official state site
North Carolina	LIVE	LIVE - 43 programs at 16 community colleges state-approved as of Aug. 12; includes CNA/nurse aide, EMT, firefighter, CDL/truck driving, phlebotomy, lineworker, welding, BioWork, IT support and mechatronics. Additional programs remain pending.	Open official state site
Ohio	LIVE	LIVE - year-round process; state eligible-occupation list published.	Open official state site
Oregon	LIVE	LIVE - online approval portal opened Aug. 26; state framework/occupation workbook published.	Open official state site
Pennsylvania	LIVE	LIVE - 2 of 40 submitted programs state-approved in first round; state eligible-occupation framework includes 19 occupations.	Open official state site
Rhode Island	LIVE	LIVE - pilot window Aug. 14-Sept. 16; determinations expected later in 2026.	Open official state site
South Carolina	LIVE	LIVE - application process launched July 1; pilot occupation framework published.	Open official state site
South Dakota	LIVE	LIVE - inaugural window closed Aug. 31; determinations due Oct. 30.	Open official state site
Tennessee	LIVE	LIVE - application portal launched July 1; CIP-SOC alignment framework published.	Open official state site
Texas	LIVE	LIVE - first extended application period closed Sept. 1; next submission cycle Nov. 2-Dec. 11.	Open official state site
Wisconsin	LIVE	LIVE - rolling applications open; no approved-program list posted yet.	Open official state site
Alaska	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS - draft implementation framework presented; no portal or formal approval list yet.	Open official state site
California	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS - enabling legislation reached governor Sept. 8; CSAC portal scheduled to open Oct. 1.	Open official state site
Connecticut	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS - Governor's Workforce Council expected to finalize recommendations Sept. 17.	Open official state site
Hawaii	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS - working group developing policy/criteria; no operational application process yet.	Open official state site
Kansas	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS - state higher-education/workforce action still developing; no verified operational portal in latest scan.	Open official state site
Massachusetts	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS - implementation work underway; no verified operational application process in latest scan.	Open official state site

Montana	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS - state workforce board took up Workforce Pell for review/action; outcome not publicly posted.	Open official state site
New Hampshire	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS - law enacted and agency page published; programs anticipated to accept Workforce Pell in early 2027.	Open official state site
Oklahoma	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS - coordination venue named; no approval process/application announced.	Open official state site
Puerto Rico	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS - Aug. 30 executive order created interagency implementation committee; procedures/application not yet published.	Open official state site
Utah	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS - approval framework adopted (Board Policy R132); no public institutional application channel/program list yet.	Open official state site
Vermont	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS - taskforce drafting guidance; small pilot targeted for 2027.	Open official state site
Virginia	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS - VCCS/Virginia Works named in draft state plan; no public approval process yet.	Open official state site
Washington	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS - pilot guidance taken up Aug. 26; outcome/portal not publicly confirmed.	Open official state site
West Virginia	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS - enabling legislation enacted; rulemaking/program approval process next.	Open official state site
North Dakota	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN - awareness/briefings documented, but no verified approval process, designation or application.	Open official state site
Wyoming	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN - governor workgroup referenced, but no published designation, process or program list.	Open official state site

National Workforce Pell tracker used to cross-check state status: Opportunity Data, Workforce Pell State Implementation Record (verified through Sept. 11, 2026).

[Open national Workforce Pell state implementation tracker](#)

2. Workforce Pell - programs already identifiable

This section separates named programs from broader eligible-occupation lists. A state can approve a program before the U.S. Department of Education gives final federal approval.

State	Named program(s) / scale	Approval level	What it means
Iowa	Iowa Central Community College - Emergency Medical Technician (14 weeks)	FEDERALLY APPROVED	Students may use Workforce Pell.
Iowa	Des Moines Area Community College - Emergency Medical Technician	FEDERALLY APPROVED (per Iowa DOE roster)	Students may use Workforce Pell.
Indiana	Ivy Tech Community College - Clinical Medical Assistant (8 weeks)	FEDERALLY APPROVED	Students may use Workforce Pell.
North Carolina	43 programs at 16 community colleges	STATE APPROVED	Examples: nurse aide/CNA, EMT, firefighter, CDL/truck driving, phlebotomy, electrical lineworker, welding, BioWork, IT support, mechatronics. Federal approval still required program by program.
Nebraska	Class A CDL; Phlebotomy Technician; Pharmacy Technician; CompTIA Tech+ with Google IT	STATE APPROVED / publicly highlighted	Federal approval pending in latest verified public information.

	Support		
New Jersey	Rowan College of South Jersey-Gloucester - Patient Care Technician	GOVERNOR/STATE RECOMMENDED TO ED	Pilot-year federal approval pending.
Pennsylvania	2 programs approved from 40 submitted	STATE APPROVED	Pennsylvania published the approved-program file; federal approval is still separate.
Michigan	37 of 42 first-window applications	CONDITIONALLY STATE APPROVED	Program names/final letters were not publicly posted in latest verification.

3. Registered Apprenticeship - what 'implemented' means nationally

Registered Apprenticeship itself was not launched in 2026. It is a longstanding federal-state system. The correct nationwide implementation question is who registers/oversees programs in each state: a recognized State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA) or the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship (OA). Program sponsors and occupations can then be searched by state.

State	Registration model	2026 interpretation	Where to find state programs
Alabama	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Alaska	U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship (OA)	Federal Office of Apprenticeship registers/oversees programs in the state.	State office + sponsor lookup
Arizona	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Arkansas	U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship (OA)	Federal Office of Apprenticeship registers/oversees programs in the state.	State office + sponsor lookup
California	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Colorado	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Connecticut	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Delaware	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
District of Columbia	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Florida	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Georgia	U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship (OA)	Federal Office of Apprenticeship registers/oversees programs in the state.	State office + sponsor lookup
Hawaii	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Idaho	U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship (OA)	Federal Office of Apprenticeship registers/oversees programs in the state.	State office + sponsor lookup
Illinois	U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship (OA)	Federal Office of Apprenticeship registers/oversees programs in the state.	State office + sponsor lookup
Indiana	U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship (OA)	Federal Office of Apprenticeship registers/oversees programs in the state.	State office + sponsor lookup
Iowa	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Kansas	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Kentucky	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered	State office + sponsor lookup

		Apprenticeship programs.	
Louisiana	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Maine	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Maryland	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Massachusetts	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Michigan	U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship (OA)	Federal Office of Apprenticeship registers/oversees programs in the state.	State office + sponsor lookup
Minnesota	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Mississippi	U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship (OA)	Federal Office of Apprenticeship registers/oversees programs in the state.	State office + sponsor lookup
Missouri	U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship (OA)	Federal Office of Apprenticeship registers/oversees programs in the state.	State office + sponsor lookup
Montana	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Nebraska	U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship (OA)	Federal Office of Apprenticeship registers/oversees programs in the state.	State office + sponsor lookup
Nevada	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
New Hampshire	U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship (OA)	Federal Office of Apprenticeship registers/oversees programs in the state.	State office + sponsor lookup
New Jersey	U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship (OA)	Federal Office of Apprenticeship registers/oversees programs in the state.	State office + sponsor lookup
New Mexico	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
New York	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
North Carolina	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
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		programs in the state.	
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Virginia	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Washington	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
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Wisconsin	State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA)	State directly registers/oversees Registered Apprenticeship programs.	State office + sponsor lookup
Wyoming	U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship (OA)	Federal Office of Apprenticeship registers/oversees programs in the state.	State office + sponsor lookup

4. Notable apprenticeship developments launched or expanded in 2026

- **North Carolina - NC Career Launch:** Statewide youth apprenticeship/pre-apprenticeship expansion for 11th- and 12th-grade students in high-demand sectors; WIOA discretionary funds redirected to support the system.
- **North Carolina - STEP-NC: Health Care:** Announced July 16, 2026 as the first healthcare apprenticeship initiative within NC state government. Pilots at Broughton Hospital and J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center include behavioral health and maintenance pathways, with pathways into Registered Apprenticeship.
- **South Dakota - State Office of Apprenticeship / SAA transition:** SB 63 created a State Office of Apprenticeship in 2026, shifting the state toward state administration and expanding youth apprenticeship access across high schools.
- **Utah - statewide youth apprenticeship governance:** SB 195 created a Statewide Youth Apprenticeship Governance Council in March 2026, building a more formal statewide structure for youth apprenticeship.
- **Connecticut - newly certified apprenticeship-related coursework:** Connecticut highlighted newly certified Lincoln Technical Institute coursework in electrical/electronic systems and HVAC-related training as meeting Registered Apprenticeship training standards in April 2026.

5. Websites to use for ongoing board updates

- [U.S. Department of Education - Workforce Pell announcements](#)
- [Federal Student Aid - Workforce Pell certification guidance](#)
- [National Workforce Pell state implementation tracker](#)
- [Apprenticeship.gov - state office lookup](#)
- [Apprenticeship.gov - apprenticeship system map \(SAA vs OA\)](#)
- [Apprenticeship.gov - Partner Finder / program sponsors](#)
- [Apprenticeship.gov - Apprenticeship Job Finder](#)
- [Apprenticeship.gov - approved apprenticeship occupations](#)
- [Apprenticeship.gov - apprentices by state dashboard](#)

6. Board-level takeaways for September 2026

- Do not report a state as 'fully implemented' merely because it opened a Workforce Pell application process. Track three gates separately: state process live, state program approval, and final U.S. Department of Education approval.
- Workforce Pell is moving quickly but unevenly. The strongest comparison metric right now is the number of named state-approved programs and how many have crossed the federal approval gate.
- For apprenticeship, focus the board update on 2026 expansions, new sectors, youth participation, employer sponsors, active apprentices, completions and state investment - not whether the state has an apprenticeship system at all.
- For each quarter, refresh the live/in-progress list and pull the Apprenticeship.gov state dashboard so the board sees both policy implementation and actual participation.

Sources and verification notes

Primary/authoritative sources used include the U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, Apprenticeship.gov/U.S. Department of Labor, Iowa Department of Education, North Carolina Department of Commerce, Pennsylvania Department of Education, state workforce/higher-education agencies, and the National Governors Association. The Opportunity Data state implementation record was used as a cross-state index and was verified through September 11, 2026. Because state approvals are changing rapidly, this document should be treated as a point-in-time September 2026 snapshot.

- [U.S. ED - first federal Workforce Pell approval \(Iowa\)](#)
- [U.S. ED - Indiana Workforce Pell approval](#)
- [Iowa Workforce Pell roster](#)
- [NC approved Workforce Pell programs](#)
- [Pennsylvania Workforce Pell](#)
- [Apprenticeship system map](#)
- [Apprentices by State dashboard](#)
- [NGA - Governors Advancing Youth Apprenticeship in 2026](#)