

# Pell Reinstatement is Here: What do SHEEOs Need to Do Now



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STATE HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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At the conclusion of this session, participants will:

1. Understand the US Department of Education's final regulations on Pell reinstatement which started on July 1, 2023;
2. Understand how SHEEO has been actively advocating for members throughout 2023 to better prepare everyone for Pell reinstatement;
3. Understand the importance of establishing and maintaining positive relationships statewide with educators, corrections, employers, and other important stakeholders;
4. Understand the resources SHEEO and Vera have available for members moving forward.



STATE HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



SHEEO



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Are you already engaging with **colleges** in your state that are providing postsecondary education to students who are incarcerated?



If yes, are any of these colleges using **Pell Grant funds** to provide postsecondary education to students who are incarcerated?



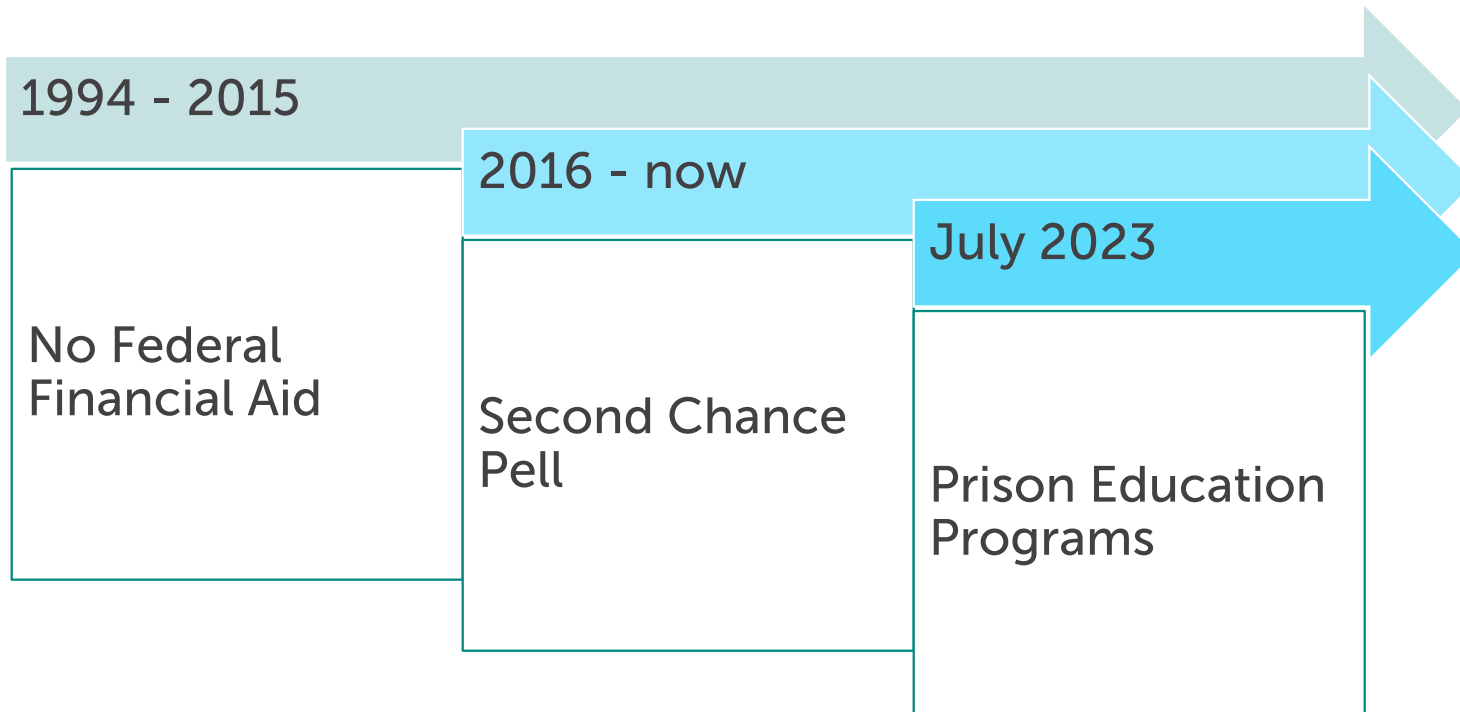
Do you have **colleges** in your state who are interested in becoming a Prison Education Program (using Pell Grants)?



# Prison Education Programs







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# Benefits of Postsecondary Education in Prison

- **Racial equity:** Postsecondary education can facilitate [upward social mobility to racially marginalized groups](#). People of color are a disproportionate majority of the prison population, making the availability of postsecondary programs in prison an important avenue to future opportunity.
- **Personal and community development:** People who participate in postsecondary education in prison describe the experience as [transformative](#), pushing them to develop new identities, perspectives, and goals, and to focus on self-reflection and improvement. They also pass these skills and outlook on to future generations.
- **Job training:** Prison postsecondary education programs are becoming increasingly essential for incarcerated students' post-release employment and successful reentry: by 2027, [70 percent of all jobs will require postsecondary education](#) and training beyond high school.
- **Public safety:** As incarcerated people achieve higher levels of education, their likelihood of recidivism decreases. Incarcerated people who participate in postsecondary education programs have [48 percent lower odds of returning](#) to prison than those who do not.
- **Government savings:** Reducing incarceration benefits taxpayers— every dollar invested in prison-based education yields more than [four dollars in taxpayer savings](#) from reduced incarceration costs.

# Determining Eligible PEPs: Pre-Approval Process

## **Corrections/Oversight Entity:**

College discusses potential programming with corrections and applies to become an official partner. Agreement (e.g., MOU) is established.

## **Accreditor:**

After a college has established a partnership with corrections, the college initiates the substantive change additional location process with its institutional accreditor, if applicable, to offer a new academic program.

## **US Department of Education (ED):**

After the college has obtained an agreement or approval from corrections and their accreditor, the college applies to ED to become an approved PEP. If a college is approved by ED, they will receive a Program Participation Agreement (PPA).

# Determining Eligible PEPs: Final Approval

## **Year 0:**

Assuming the college has received a PPA from ED, they begin college programming utilizing Pell Grant funds.

## **Year 1-2:**

College launches program as an approved PEP, implements best interest criteria, and a site visit by their institutional accreditor takes place.

## **End of Year 2:**

The oversight entity completes an assessment of the college and determines college's final approval as a PEP.

# Stakeholder Engagement and National Landscape



# Requirement: Feedback Process



## Advisory Committee - *optional*

A group established by the oversight entity that provides nonbinding feedback regarding the approval and operation of a PEP within the oversight entity's jurisdiction.

## Relevant Stakeholders - *required*

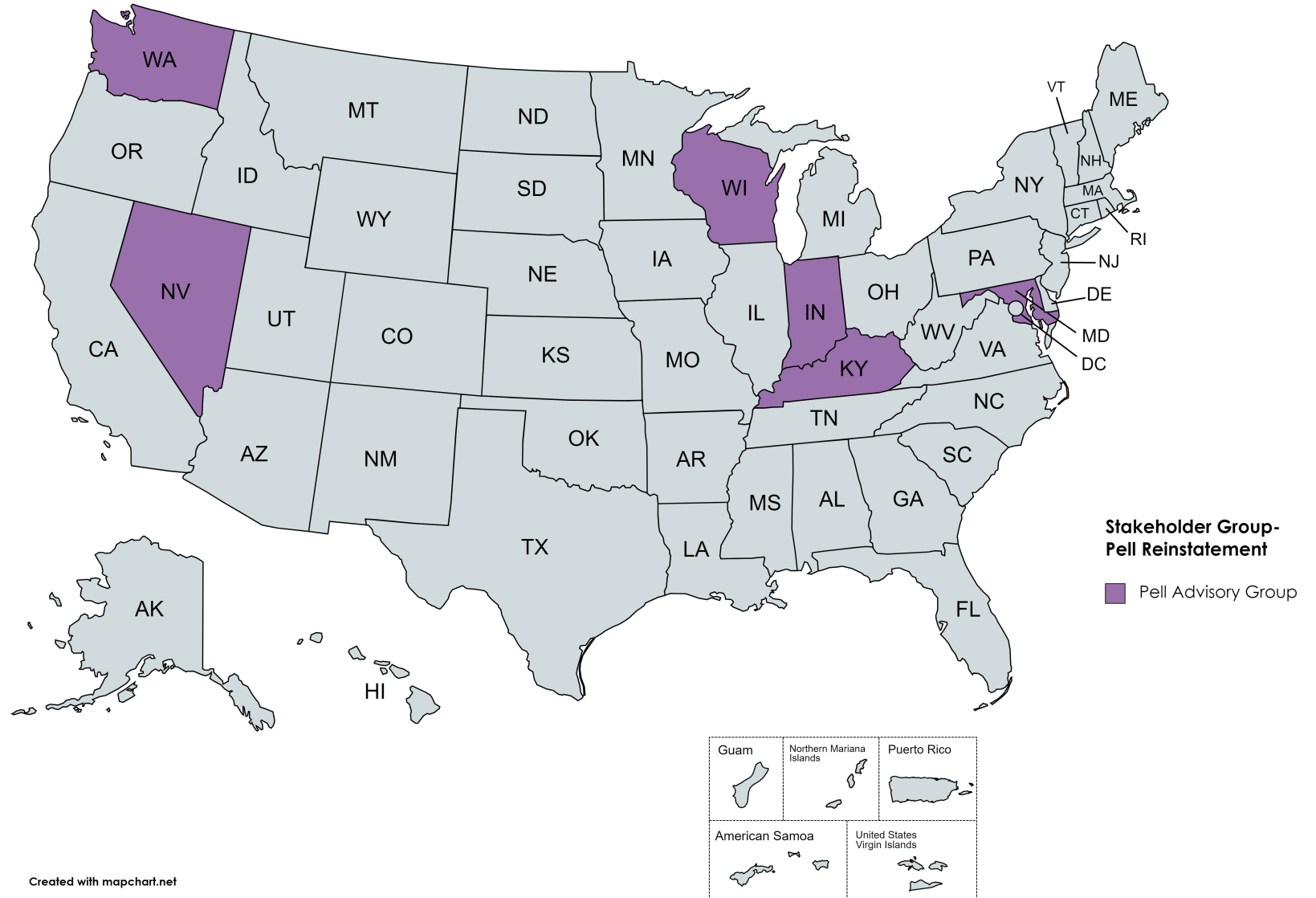
Individuals and organizations that provide input to the oversight entity as part of a feedback process regarding the approval and operation of PEPs.

### Must include -

- Representatives of students who are incarcerated.
- Organizations representing individuals who are confined or incarcerated.
- State higher education executive offices.**
- Accrediting agencies.
- Additional stakeholders as determined by the oversight entity.



# National Landscape: Pell Advisory Group







# Opportunities for SHEEOs

Barriers to Accessing Educational Opportunities for Incarcerated Students



# Funding Barriers for Incarcerated Students

## Access to State Financial Aid

- In some states, statute and/or regulation **codifies now defunct federal financial aid eligibility criteria** (ex., drug conviction related ineligibility, incarceration bans)
- If incarcerated students are not eligible for need-based state financial aid, they may be unable to complete credentials or progress on their degree path, limiting the benefits to that person and the state in which they reside

## County and State Full-Time Equivalent Calculations

- In many states, community colleges receive funding from three sources:
  - 1) state appropriations
  - 2) student tuition payments with or without financial aid
  - 3) county or state full-time equivalent formulas
- Incarcerated students may be living in prisons that fall outside the county boundaries of the community colleges that are willing to teach in the prison, reducing the county-based FTE calculation for the college and eliminating a crucial funding stream for the college
- In some states, incarcerated students may be barred from inclusion in FTE calculations, eliminating a crucial funding stream for the college

# Additional Barriers to Accessing Postsecondary Education for Incarcerated Students

## Screening for Conviction History in Admissions

- If incarcerated students are unable to gain admission to public colleges and universities after release from prison, they may be **unable to complete credentials** or progress on their degree path, limiting the benefits to that person and the state in which they reside.
- The proposed Pell regulations **require** colleges teaching in prison to **permit students to enroll on campus post-release** barring exceptional circumstances.

## Establishing State and County Residency

- To qualify for in-state and/or in-county tuition, a student typically must **prove residency**
- In some states, residency policies make it **difficult to prove residency while incarcerated**
- If students must pay out-of-state or out-of-county tuition at public colleges, they may not be able to afford to complete their credential or degree path, limiting the benefits to that person and the state in which they reside

## How might SHEEOs move forward?

Start working with colleges, corrections, and accreditors in your state as they prepare for Pell reinstatement.



Join or start a "relevant stakeholder" committee and ensure the committee's goals encompass the final regulations.



Review any policies colleges will need to follow with your agency to create PEPs.



Amend any policies that could impede PEPs (residency/state financial aid) and provide guidance where applicable to support PEPs

# Resources



# Department of Education Resources

Email address for PEP-related questions

[pep@ed.gov](mailto:pep@ed.gov)

## FSA's Knowledge Center

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What's New Library Topics

[Knowledge Center Home](#) > [Library](#) > [Electronic Announcements](#) > [Prison Education Programs Topics Page](#)

**(GENERAL-22-79) Prison Education Programs Topics Page**

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/prison-education-programs>

# Vera Resource: Summary of the Final Regulations

Publication January 2023

## Accessing Pell Grants for College Programs in Correctional Settings

A Summary of the Regulations and Requirements



Final Regs Summary





# Additional Resources

- Alliance for Higher Education in Prison - <https://www.higheredinprison.org/>
- Formerly Incarcerated College Graduates Network - <https://www.ficgn.org/>

**Vera** offers a range of resources that may be helpful to corrections, colleges, accreditors, and others in the higher education in prison space:

- [Accessing Pell Grants for College Programs in Correctional Settings](#) summarizes the final regulations.
- [Postsecondary Education in Prison Programs and Accreditation—General Considerations for Peer Reviewers and Accreditors](#) provides college accreditors, peer reviewers, and other interested parties with supplementary information about the higher education in prison space.
- [Second Chance Pell: Five Years of Expanding Higher Education Programs in Prisons](#) summarizes the fifth year of the experiment using survey data collected from 64 of the participating colleges.
- [First Class report](#) offers relevant guidance on starting new college in prison programs.
- [A Piece of the Puzzle](#) analyzes state financial aid available to students who are incarcerated.
- [Lessons from Second Chance Pell](#) provides guidance on advising students completing the FAFSA form while incarcerated.

# Questions?

