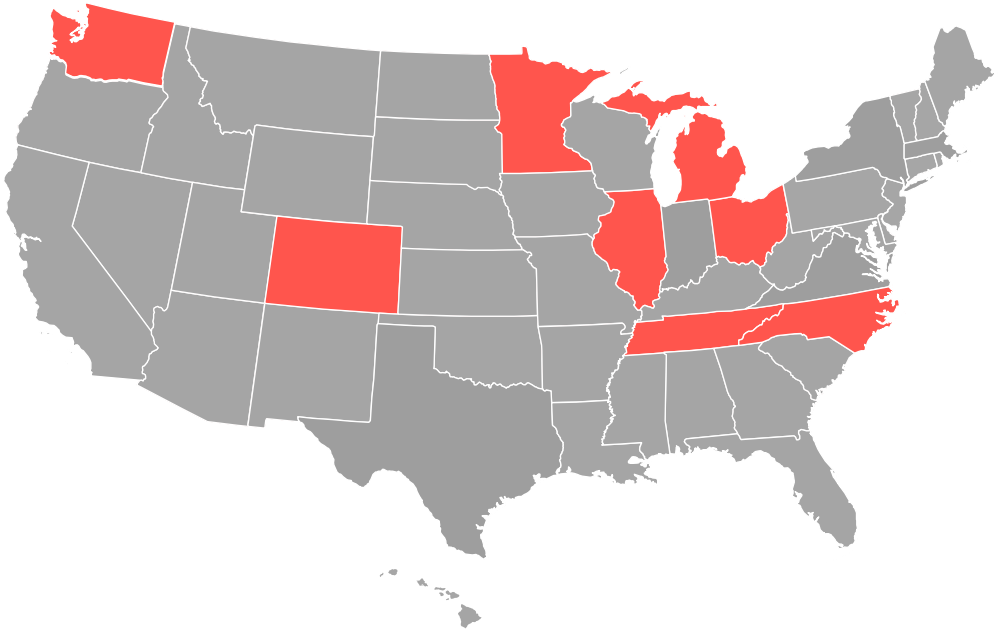
ESG Education Strategy Group

From Aid to Opportunity:

Implementing Transformative Workforce Pell in Illinois & Tennessee

ESG's Support on Workforce Pell



- Statewide Strategy
- Program Determination Policies
- Program Analyses
- Guidance for Learners & Providers

Criteria for Workforce Pell

Program Requirements

- **Time:** 150-599 clock hours; can be 8-<15 weeks
- Prep learners for **high-skill, high wage, in-demand** jobs
- Meet **hiring requirements** for >1 employer
- Has been **offered by the institution for ≥ 1 year** prior to receiving eligibility
- Not a **correspondence, study abroad** or **direct assessment course**
- No more than 25% of training provided via **written arrangement** (registered apprenticeship - <50%)

Stackability Requirements

- Lead to an **industry-recognized credential** that is stackable and portable
- **Provides credit** that articulates to one or more additional certificates or degree programs

Outcome Requirements

- Have a verified **completion rate** of at least 70%
- Have a verified **job placement rate** of 70%
- Meet an **earnings requirement** that relies on program cost, median earnings, and the federal poverty level.

State Authority in Workforce Pell Implementation

The Workforce Pell rules put governors, and their cabinet member agencies, as active gatekeepers in determining which programs quality for Workforce Pell funding

State-Determined Eligibility Criteria

- Priority Occupations
- Employer Validation
- Stackability and Portability
- Program to Credit Articulation

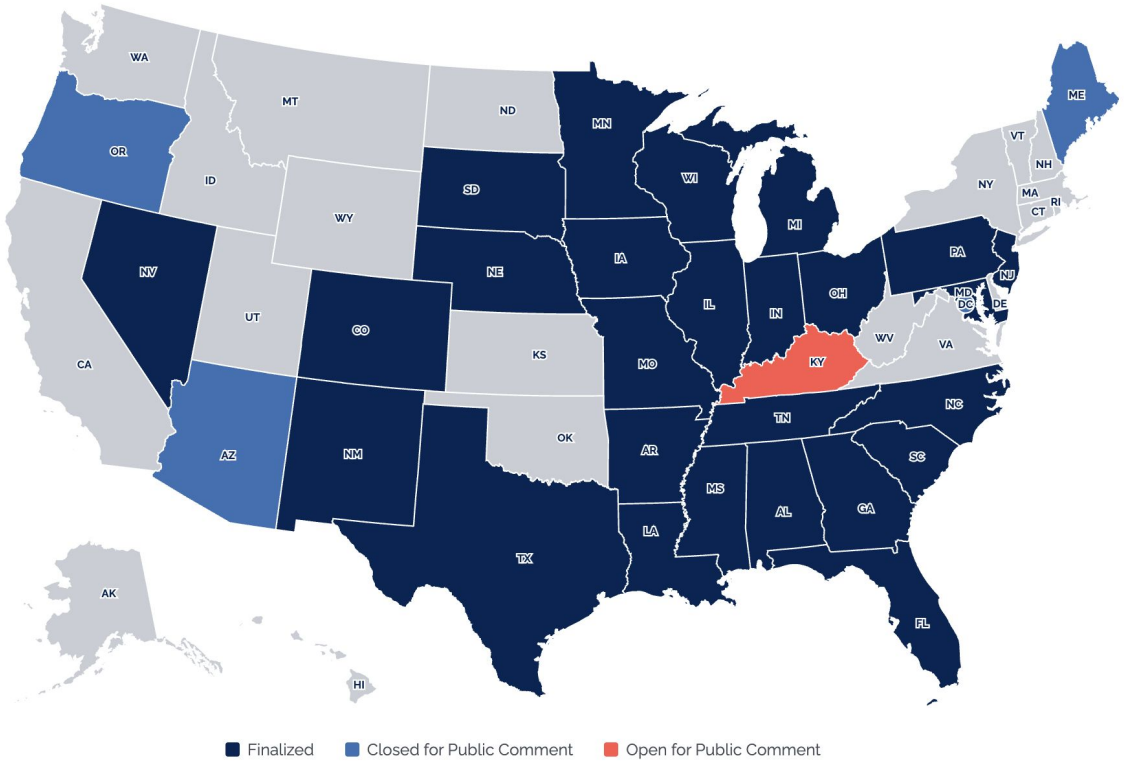
Program Approval Process

- Application
- Timeline
- Review Process & Authority
- Data Validation
- Appeals

Ongoing Compliance and Monitoring

- Validation of Completion & Placement Metrics
- (Biannually) Updating the Priority Occupations list

Current State of Workforce Pell Implementation



26 States
have finalized their program determination policies

5 States
Policies are under review or open for comment

Eligible Occupations Lists range from
12 - 677