



State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) Meeting

July 16, 2026



Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Acknowledgement of Member Resignations

Member Self-Introductions and Objectives (First Time Attendees)

Natalie Carroll, SWDB Chair

Action Items: SWDB Business

Approval of Minutes

Next Meeting and Future Meeting Dates

Natalie Carroll, SWDB Chair

Future Meeting Dates

ACTION ITEM: Future Meeting Dates

Suggested Dates:

- **Next Meeting Date:** October 7
- **2027:** 2nd Month of Quarter, 3rd Wednesday

Member availability and attendance updates should be communicated to the SWDB Director.

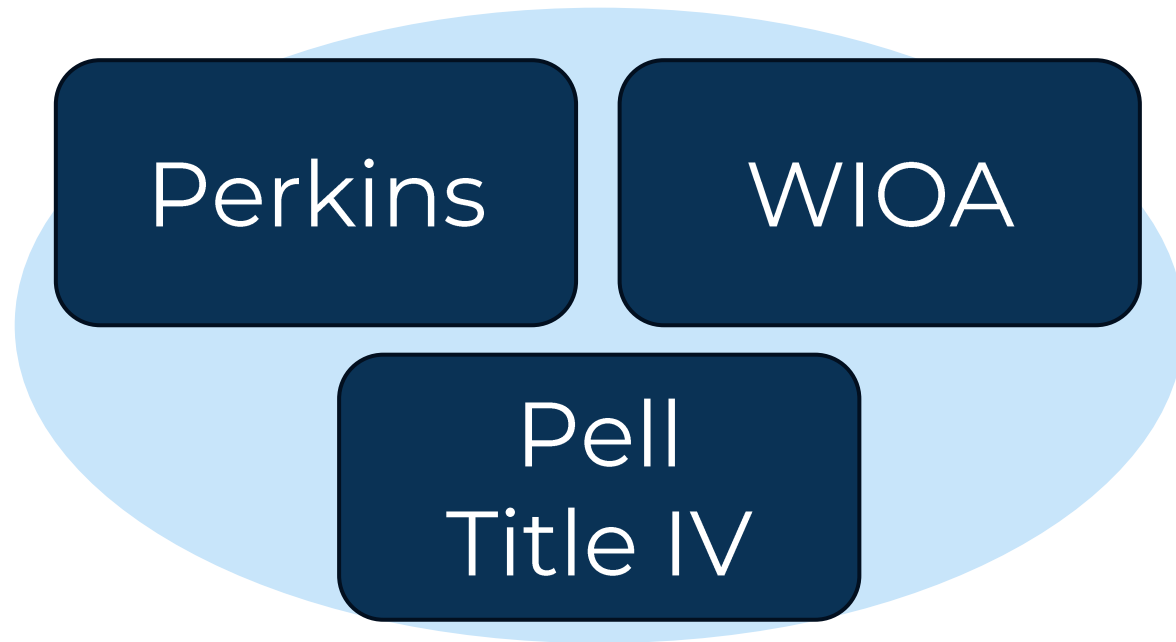
Overview of Workforce Pell Program

Lara Pastore, Associate Chief Talent Development, DWD

Brooke Kile, Senior Associate Commissioner for Business Solutions, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

What is Workforce Pell?

Workforce Pell blends language and components from previous legislation while introducing a new outcome and accountability framework:



- Expands Pell Grant financial aid to short-term, career-focused training programs.
- Targets programs that prepare learners for high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand jobs.
- Introduces new requirements for program approval, quality, and outcomes.

How is Workforce Pell Connected to the Workforce System?



**Workforce system
is a central
implementation
partner**



Plays a key role in:

Identifying in-demand
occupations

Informing program
approval decisions

Aligning training with
labor market needs



**Requires cross-
system
coordination**

Workforce + Higher
Education + State
Leadership

Three Components of Workforce Pell Eligibility



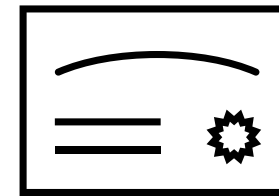
Student

Individual must complete FASFA and qualify by Pell standards



Institution

Accredited, Title-IV eligible institution in good standing



Program

Must meet federal and state eligibility requirements

Federal Program Eligibility Requirements



150–599 clock hours;
8–14 weeks



Title IV-eligible



***Aligned to Priority
Occupations***



***Employer
validation***



***Stackable &
portable credential
validation***



Credit articulation



≥70% completion &
job placement



Meets Value-Added
Earnings (VAE)
thresholds



In Place for 1 yr.+

The State's Role in Workforce Pell

Define, apply, and publish state-specific quality criteria

High-skill, high-wage, in-demand occupations

Employer demand and workforce needs

Stackable credentials or credit pathways

Establish and operate approval process

Application procedures

Review timelines

Program Approval prior to Submission to U.S. Department of Education for verification

Appeals process

Determine program compliance and performance

Institution accreditation and eligibility standards

Program structure and duration

Program completion, job placement rates, and earnings outcomes

State Program Eligibility Requirements

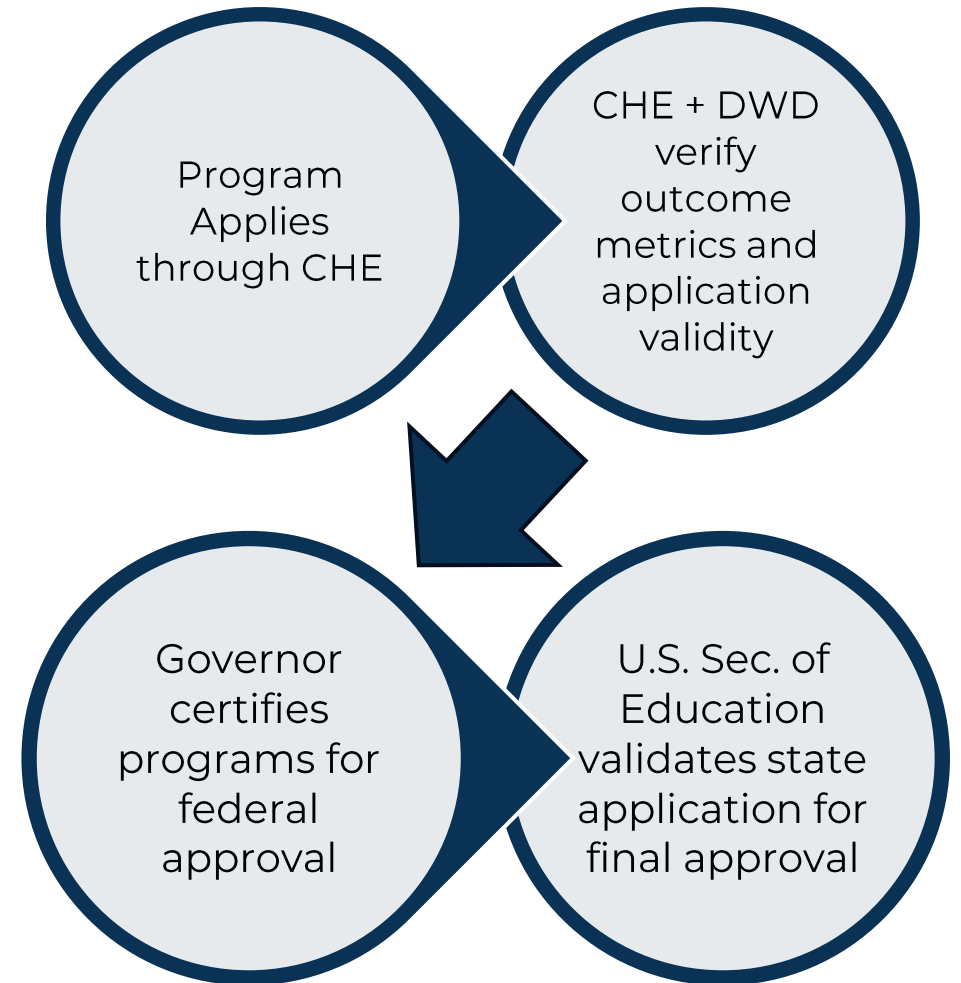
1. Labor market information specific to **demand** and **growth** as identified through the Indiana Top Jobs methodology.
2. An occupational wage threshold aligned to meet federal “**Value-Added Earnings**” benchmark
3. Education or training required beyond the high school level specifically at the **post-secondary non-degree award**.
4. **Employer input** as provided through the Regional Workforce Boards, Registered Apprenticeship sponsors, and individual employers.
5. Meets the criteria of **stackability** and **portability** within career pathways for priority industry sectors.

Priority Sectors: Indiana WIOA State Plan PY2026-2028

1. Advanced Manufacturing
2. Building and Construction
3. Health and Life Sciences
4. IT and Business Services
5. Transportation and Logistics

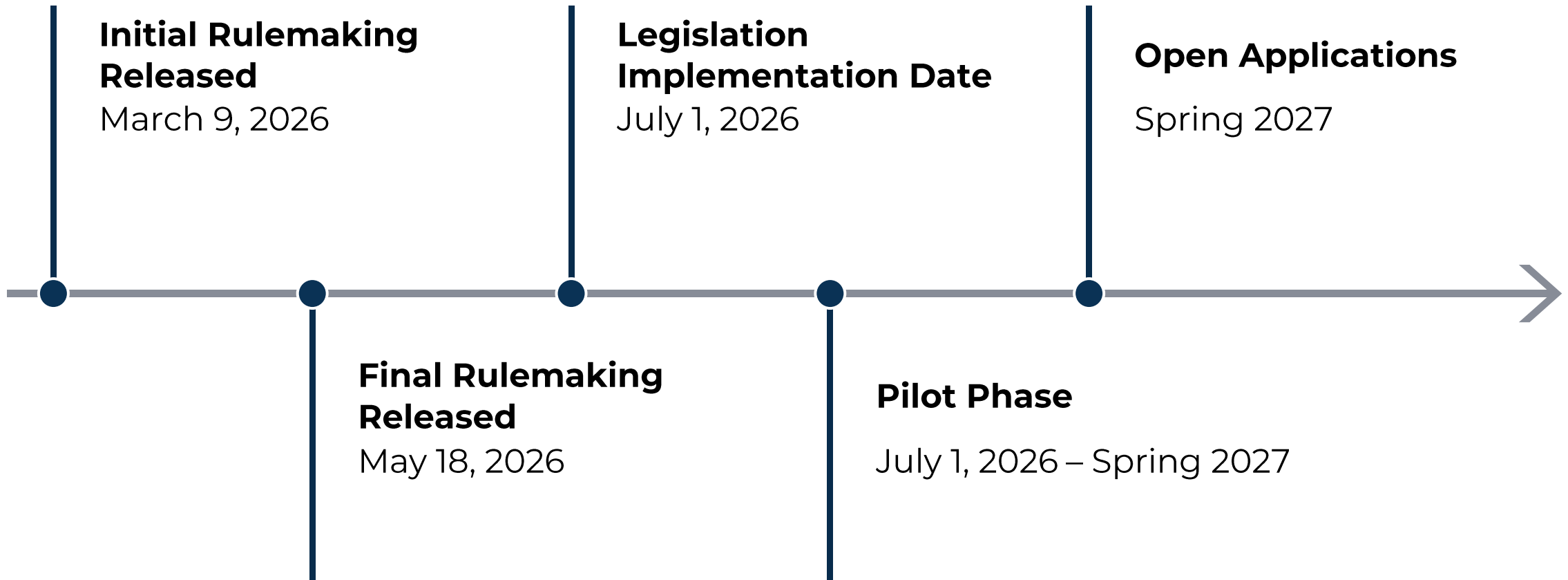
Workforce Pell: 2026-2027

Indiana is implementing Workforce Pell Program as a pilot. The open application process to all eligible institutions will be begin in mid-2027.



- Only Title IV eligible institutions can apply

Indiana Workforce Pell Timeline



Indiana Implementation Status



National Updates

- As of July 10, 19 states or territories have an operational approval process, 26 are “in process” of establishing policy and process, and seven with no verifiable activity.
- Pennsylvania is the first state to publish program approval – 40 programs submitted and two were approved.

Questions?

Lara Pastore, Associate Chief Talent Development, DWD
LPastore@dwd.in.gov

**Brooke Kile, Senior Associate Commissioner for Business
Solutions, Indiana Commission for Higher Education**
BKile@che.in.gov



Thank You!

Questions?

Submit via:

Email: JaHarkin@dwd.in.gov

Mail: IN Department of Workforce Development

ATTN: PAO Department, Jacob Harkin

10 N Senate Ave, IGCS SE304

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2027.

Phone: 317-234-1100

Mon – Fri, 8:30AM - 5:00PM EST

