

Pell Grants

Background

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding for training is limited to participants who are unable to obtain assistance from other sources to pay the cost of training or who require assistance in addition to that available from other sources.

The Federal Pell Grant Program that is administered by the United States Department of Education provides grants to students attending eligible educational institutions. Authority for the Federal Pell Grant Program can be found in Section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1070a.

Policy

1. When grants under Title IV of the Higher Education Act are made available to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act participant's as part of a post-secondary financial aid package, One-Stop staff must ensure that Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds are used IN ADDITION to the other funds.
2. Where there is a Pell Grant, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Title I staff must document in the client's case file, the educational institution's determinations of the client's training related financial assistance needs and how the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity funds and the grants will combine to meet these needs.
3. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Operations Manager must complete required Individual Training Account paperwork, including the Individual Training Account Agreement, Contract, and Billing Authorization.
4. The Individual Training Account must indicate how the combination of funding will allow the client to successfully complete the agreed upon training.
5. The educational institution Financial Aid Officer must inform the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Operations Manager of the amounts and disposition of any grants given to the client after enrollment and provide an assurance that funds will not duplicate one another.
6. The Financial Aid Officer at the post-secondary institution must accurately determine the cost associated with attendance in a particular course of study, and is held responsible for any discrepancies in the calculations of the cost of attendance. The cost of attendance should not change for one year. The Financial Aid Officer must inform the Workforce

Innovation and Opportunity Act Operations Manager of any revisions in the original calculation of the cost of attendance.

7. In order to avoid the possibility of double billing or duplication of funds, Individual Training Accounts with Title IV eligible educational institutions must clearly contain clauses which identify all available Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds and other grants for the client. Documents must stipulate that the Financial Aid Officer of the Title IV institutions inform the Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board and Independent Grantees of any changes in available grants.
8. An eligible-client may enroll in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funded training while the client's application for a Pell Grant is pending as long as the Grantee has made arrangements with the training institution and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act client regarding allocation of the Pell Grant, if it is subsequently awarded. In that case, the training institution must reimburse Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Grant funds used to underwrite the training for the amount the Pell Grant covers. Reimbursement is not required from the portion of Pell Grant assistance disbursed to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act client for education-related expenses.

Approval Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'BS' with a stylized flourish extending from the bottom.

Revision Date: June, 2017