

Make Pell Grants work for America's businesses and employees

MORE THAN 80% OF JOBS require postsecondary education or training — this includes millions of middle-skill jobs that require more than a high school diploma but not a four-year degree. Career focused middle skill credentials help people get jobs, help current employees advance, and help businesses find the skills they need. Unfortunately our current financial aid system, which includes the \$30 billion annual investment in Pell Grants, excludes certain industry-recognized training programs that are key to meeting employer skill needs while creating advancement opportunities for entry-level employees.

Congress should:

✓ **MAKE SHORT-TERM OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS ELIGIBLE FOR PELL.**

Short-term, career-oriented postsecondary programs with a track record of success should be eligible for Pell Grants. Shortening time requirements would help employees access financial aid they need to earn the credentials businesses need now.

✓ **MAKE MORE DEMAND DRIVEN JOB PROGRAMS ELIGIBLE FOR PELL.**

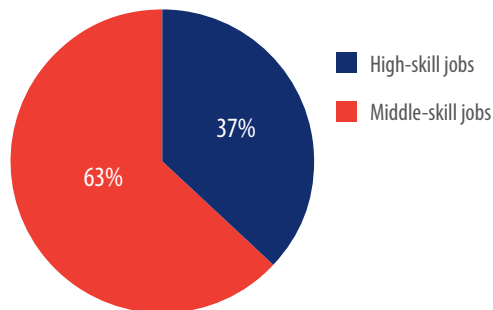
High-quality, noncredit programs should qualify for Pell Grants. More than 5 million students are enrolled in programs that are not offered for college credit. Because they are highly adaptable and more quickly developed than for-credit programs, non-credit programs can adjust responsively to changing industry conditions.

✓ **USE INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS TO HELP ENSURE PROGRAMS ARE DEMAND DRIVEN.**

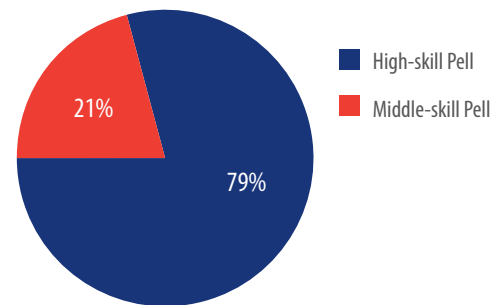
The most effective training programs have strong connections to regional employers and local labor markets. Congress should encourage such partnerships and leverage them to inform the development of short-term and noncredit certificate programs that produce skilled workers.

MODERNIZE PELL GRANTS TO REFLECT THE LABOR MARKET

Total U.S. jobs requiring some form of postsecondary education and training



Pell Grant expenditures 2014-2015



Middle-skill jobs make up the majority of all jobs requiring postsecondary education and training, but get only 21 percent of Pell dollars.

Source: National Skills Coalition (NSC) analysis.

Source: NSC analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Education's Pell Year-End Report and from the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS).

ACT NOW!

Sign on as a cosponsor to the JOBS Act.

Modernize Pell to be more demand-driven and responsive to employer skill needs while creating advancement opportunities for entry-level employees.