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For Immediate Release: Wednesday, July 1, 2026
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Gov. Rhoden Announces Workforce Pell Applications Now Available

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Larry Rhoden has announced Workforce Pell program applications are now available, opening the door for institutions to seek approval for short-term training programs eligible for federal Pell grants.

“South Dakota truly is Open for Opportunity,” said **Governor Larry Rhoden**. “The Workforce Pell program will expand access to affordable, short-term education that meets the needs of our workforce, strengthens our economy, and opens doors for more South Dakotans to succeed.”

The application process allows schools operating under Title IV of the Higher Education Act to request inclusion in the federal Workforce Pell Grant framework. Programs approved under this structure will enable eligible students to use Pell grants for short-term training options that previously did not qualify for federal financial aid.

“As program decisions move forward, the state will ensure employer needs are actively heard so the right training programs are identified and supported,” said **state Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman**. “The process will be a collaboration between education and industry.”

The Department of Labor and Regulation anticipates the first round of program applications to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in November 2026 for a final determination. [View more information](#).

The Workforce Pell effort supports the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and aligns with President Donald Trump’s [America’s Talent Strategy](#).