

Implementation by July 1, 2026

CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE PELL (Force Pell)



What is Workforce Pell?

- New federal Pell category for short-term workforce programs
- 150-600 clock hours, 8-15 weeks
- Goes live July 1, 2026

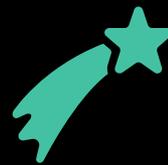
Why it Matters for California



Opens Pell to many high-value CTE pathways



Helps working adults and career changers



Boosts CCC enrollment, completions, SCFF outcomes

Key Federal Rules

- Program length: 150-600 hours, 8-15 weeks
- Must be accredited, earnings-based accountability
- Awards prorated; no correspondence courses

California Guidance

- CCCCO memo (Aug 1, 2025) outlines requirements
- Governor/state certification step required
- Further technical guidance coming 2025-2026

Eligible Students

Need-based
(FAFSA Pell rules)

Undocumented not
Pell-eligible
(Cal Grant, CADAA
still apply)

AB 469 ensures
HS FAFSA/CADAA
completion

Eligible Programs

Likely:

Industrial Automation, Robotics, IT, Healthcare tech

Caution:

Correspondence and distance-heavy programs

May Not Qualify:

Programs with weak wage outcomes

Financial Aid & Packaging

- Prorated Pell amounts for short programs
- Combined aid cannot exceed Cost of Attendance
- Must align with Cal Grant/CCPG rules

Compliance & Risk



ACCREDITATION
APPROVALS
REQUIRED

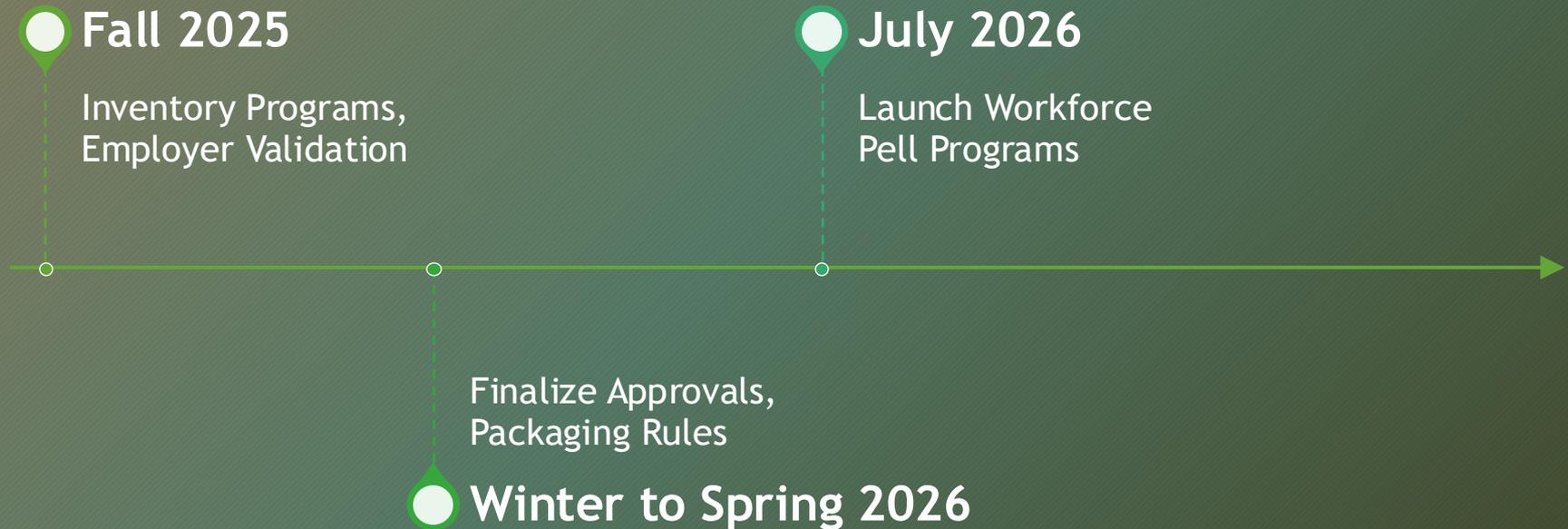


EARNINGS-BASED
ACCOUNTABILITY
RISK



IDENTITY/FRAUD
VERIFICATION
HEIGHTENED

Implementation Timeline



Executive Decisions Needed

- Phase 1 program list
- Accreditation path & owners
- Employer wage validation
- Financial aid packaging rules
- Fraud control plan

Metrics & Success

- Access: number of Pell-eligible students enrolled
- Progress/completion rates
- Employment/earnings outcomes
- Equity participation & outcomes

Risks & Mitigation



Program readiness → Phase 1 focus



Weak wage outcomes → Target strong LMI programs



Over-awards → Early FA simulations



Fraud risks → ID verification solutions

Next Steps

1

Approve program slate & accreditation filings

2

Direct FA/IR to prepare packaging rules

3

Convene employer validations

4

Approve ID verification procurement