

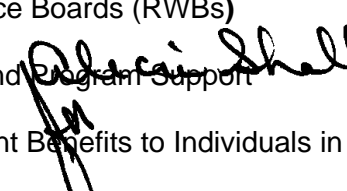


Date of Issue: May 15, 2009
Office of Issue: AWI-09-09
Reference: USDOL

AWI Communiqué

DATE: May 14, 2009

TO: Workforce Florida, Inc. and Regional Workforce Boards (RWBs)

FROM: Lois A. Scott, Program Manager, One-Stop and Program Support 

SUBJECT: Pell Grants and the Payment of Unemployment Benefits to Individuals in Approved Training

PURPOSE:

To encourage states to (1) broaden their definition of approved training for Unemployment Insurance (UI) beneficiaries during economic downturns, (2) notify UI beneficiaries of their potential eligibility for Pell Grants and other student aid, and (3) help individuals apply for Pell Grants through One-Stop Career Centers.

BACKGROUND:

President Obama recently announced that the Administration seeks to enable more workers to obtain job training while receiving unemployment benefits so they can develop their skills while the economy recovers. States are strongly encouraged to widen the types of training and the conditions under which education or training are considered “approved training” for purposes of the state’s UI law during economic downturns. States are also strongly encouraged to notify UI beneficiaries of their potential eligibility for Pell Grants and other financial aid and to assist with applications. It is also requested that UI beneficiaries be notified that they may qualify for Pell Grants and other student aid and be given information about how to apply.

AUTHORITY:

U.S. Department of Labor

ACTION REQUIRED:

Regional Workforce Boards are encouraged to share this notice to service providers, workforce partners, and interested parties.